



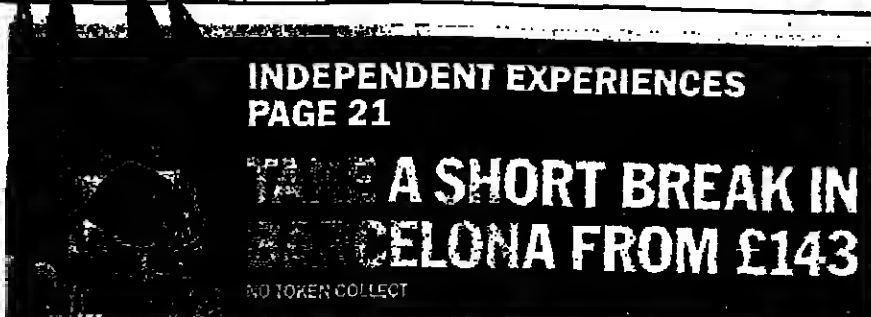
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Labour pardon for war 'cowards'

Anthony Bevins and
Steve Boggan

More than 300 British soldiers executed during the First World War for cowardice, desertion and other battlefield offences could be pardoned by the end of the year in a Labour review of their cases.

John Reid, Minister for the Armed Forces, told *The Independent* that he was re-examining their cases in the light of strong evidence that many of the men were suffering from mental illness - primarily post-traumatic stress disorder - brought on by the horrors of the war.

That view was supported yesterday by the Royal British Legion which voted unanimously at its annual conference to pardon the soldiers shot for cowardice "in the light of current med-

ieval; and the Salerno Mutiny was cited as the next campaign to come.

But Mr Mackinlay told *The Independent* yesterday that the common denominator for the victims of the Great War was that they were all denied the rules of natural justice.

"None of them had an opportunity to prepare a defence, some of them were not legally represented, but the representation in many cases was limited, and none of them was given an opportunity to appeal against sentence of death. That is the justification for a blanket pardon."

Documents suppressed for 75 years reveal heart-rending cases, many involving soldiers as young as 19, being executed after cursory courts martial, often lasting just 20 minutes. One 19-year-old who complained of "feeling queer" on his way to the front, went missing for less than 20 hours before being found asleep in a barn. He was shot three weeks later.

One 26-year-old was executed for cowardice despite having spent five months in hospital recovering from shell-shock. The records of many appear to show that men who deserted were simply wandering around in terrible states of confusion. They also reveal tragedies such as that of Sgt Joe Stones who, caught in a German ambush while on patrol, wedged his non-functioning rifle across a narrow trench to slow down the pursuers; he was shot at dawn for "casting away his arms". Corporals John McDonald and Peter Goggins, enabled to escape by Sgt Stones' action, were later charged with quitting their posts.

Mr Mackinlay said the Salerno Mutiny argument was a red herring, as no pardon was being sought for mutineers, and none of the mutineers was actually executed.

When he moved an amendment to the Armed Forces Bill on 9 May 1996, opening the way for a pardon for the 307 executed soldiers, he was supported on a free vote by Dr Reid, eight members of the current Cabinet and Nick Brown, now Government Chief Whip.

The eight Cabinet Ministers are: Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade; David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; Alastair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury; Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland; Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health; Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development; Chris Smith, Secretary of State for National Heritage; and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary.

At its annual conference in Bournemouth, the Royal British Legion's 600 delegates passed a motion, already adopted by its National Council, to call for a pardon, and to "call upon the National Council to bring renewed pressure on Her Majesty's Government to take this action".

The scared young men, page 5



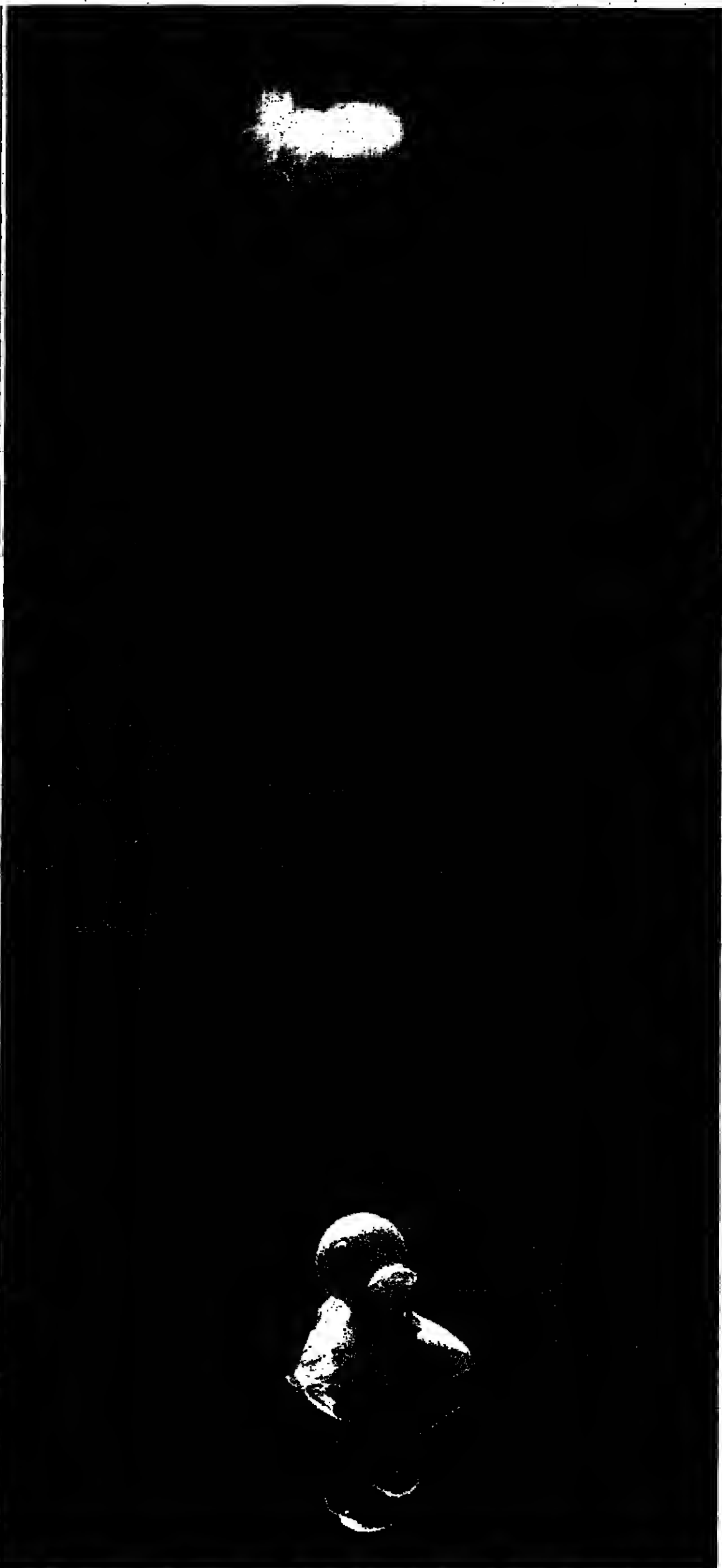
Corporal Peter Goggins: Shot for cowardice after escaping an ambush

ical evidence". A spokesman said last night that the legion now planned to lobby the Government and the Ministry of Defence to pardon the men as soon as possible.

Dr Reid and more than one-third of the new Cabinet voted for the pardon process in the Commons a year ago, when the Conservative government beat off a legislative amendment moved by Andrew Mackinlay, Labour MP for Thurrock.

Mr Mackinlay has now tabled a Commons motion, which is expected to get the support of hundreds of MPs across the House, arguing "that the vast majority of the 307 executed were as patriotic and brave as their million other compatriots who perished in the conflict ... Their misfortune was brought about due to stress, or the stress of their accusers, during battle, and that even if the behaviour of a small minority may have fallen below that of the highest standards, then time, compassion and justice dictates that all these soldiers should now be treated as victims of the conflict."

The "Yes, Minister" argument heing put against Mr Mackinlay's plea from within the Ministry of Defence is that if a blanket pardon were given, some soldiers who were guilty could be included; that a review of First World War courts martial could reopen demands for a review of other courts



Straw to put more bobbies on the beat

Katherine Butler
Brussels
Anthony Bevins
London

Thousands of policemen will be moved away from their desks and put back on the beat, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, promised last night.

Mr Straw was responding to the International Crime Victimisation Survey, which showed yesterday that people in England and Wales are more at risk from burglary and car theft than those in any other industrialised Western nation. They also face the same risk of physical attack as people in the United States.

Mr Straw did not dispute the findings of the survey, which was conducted in 1996. "It is a shocking and startling fact but England and Wales have the worst record on car crime, burglary and gratuitous violence," he said.

Mr Straw blamed what he called 18 years of Tory complacency on rising crime, particularly among juveniles. He ruled out the recruitment of more police officers owing to Labour's commitment to stick to Tory expenditure limits until the end of 1999. Instead, he vowed to exploit existing resources more effectively by sweeping away red tape and timewasting paperwork.

"What I want to see is more police officers released for police work, by attacking bureaucracy", he said. The hands of the police must be untied to tackle the causes of crime, such as neighbourhood disorder and juvenile offences, particularly where children under 15 are concerned. "That is my number-one priority," Mr Straw said.

He stressed the need for an overhaul of the Crown Prosecution Service with the appointment of District Attorneys in England and Wales.

"What this survey confirmed is what I had been saying for the last two years as Shadow Home Secretary ... that between 1987 and 1996, the rise in crime in England and Wales was greater than in any of 16 Western countries," he said.

Mr Straw, attending his first meeting of European Union justice and home affairs ministers in Brussels, emphasised the new Government's willingness for greater co-operation on fighting crime but rejected proposals for a European police force along the lines of the FBI.

The Home Secretary repeated the Government's refusal to surrender control over passport controls at airports and ports, as well as immigration and asylum policy. Thirteen of the 15 member states want the new EU treaty due to be signed in Amsterdam next month to allow intensified co-operation over these areas, including giving Brussels power to initiate legislation for the first time.

The Liberal Democrat spokesman Alan Beith exploited the new crime figures to back his party's demand for more police officers. "In the face of new figures confirming the extent of crime and the fear of crime, the Government still refuses to put resources into appointing extra police officers on the streets."

"Labour is still too locked into its pre-election rhetoric to face up to the reality that the thin blue line needs strengthening."

Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary, said the figures had to be treated with caution.

Up tails all: One of 100,000 plastic ducks that went a dabbling in the river Avon at Bath yesterday - competing in the world's largest ever bath duck race. The ducks were backed for £1 each, with a trip to Iceland as the prize for the winner, and the losers seeing their money go to WaterAid, a charity that provides clean water and sanitation in developing countries. Photograph: John Lawrence

French PM agrees to fall on his épée



John Lichfield
Paris

Prime Minister Alain Juppé last night exploded all calculations in the French parliamentary elections by announcing that he would quit his job if his centre-right coalition wins the second round on Sunday.

The announcement was intended to take the wind out of the sails of the Socialists and other left-wing parties, who unexpectedly won the first round last Sunday with 42 per cent of

the vote. Mr Juppé is desperately unpopular and his departure may bring out tens of thousands of protesters who spoiled their votes at the weekend.

But the - in effect - resignation of a prime minister in the midst of an election campaign is unprecedented and constitutionally dubious. The nation's desperate hunt for President Jacques Chirac, Mr Juppé's long-term mentor and boss in the Gaullist RPR party, will be

seen behind the decision. It may alienate some voters, already angered by the President's decision to bring the election forward for tactical reasons.

Mr Juppé made the announcement at the opening of a post-mortem meeting last night of the campaign committee of the RPR and its coalition partner, the UDF alliance of small centre and rightist parties.

"In the new challenge ahead, we will need a new team, led by a new prime minister," he said. "I will continue

the [electoral] battle to the end and then I will consider that my task has been completed."

Just before the committee meeting, Mr Juppé made a visit to President Chirac, in the greatest of secrecy, at the Elysée Palace.

Speculation on a possible successor - provided the centre-right wins - began instantly. A formal announcement before the election would further mangle constitutional propriety but officially-inspired leaks are likely.

The front-runners will be Philippe Séguin, another leading figure in the RPR who was president of the outgoing parliament and a partially reformed EMU-sceptic, and François Bayrou, education minister and rising star of the UDF.

Outside possibilities might be the former prime minister, Edouard Balladur, or some semi-political figure from a state-owned enterprise.

The sacrifice, page 17
Comment, page 17



22
QUICKLY

Hope for nurses
The man who holds the fate of two British nurses in his hands, hanged yesterday, then he had not ruled out asking a Spanish court to spare them from being beheaded. Page 7

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Airport protesters jubilant as supplies arrive by night

Jubilant protesters on the site of Manchester Airport's proposed £172m second runway say they are equipped to resist eviction for several more weeks following an audacious re-supply operation carried out under cover of darkness yesterday.

Security officials policing the fenced-in site were caught unawares by a group of campaigners who sailed through defences and into the camp by using dinghies and canoes on the River Bollin.

The opposing sides in the conservation dispute disagreed about the effectiveness of the operation last night, but it was clear from protesters living in tree-houses that they had received fresh supplies of food, water, medical items and batteries to power mobile telephones and CB radios. Some campaigners claimed that the boats had also been used to land up to 50 new protesters on the existing sites, but this was denied by a spokesman for Randal Hibbert, the under-sheriff of Cheshire responsible for the eviction.

Credit for the raid was claimed by an organisation calling itself the Sea Sabs Marine Conservation Group. Three of the seven camps have now been cleared of protesters. According to the under-sheriff's spokesman, about 35-40 protesters remained on site. The protesters put that figure at up to 150. **Steve Beggan**

Glorious sunshine, and roads misery

Britain basked in the sunshine yesterday as temperatures soared up to 21C, giving the country its warmest Whitsun Bank Holiday weekend for five years.

But the heat did nothing to alleviate the misery of motorists caught in a series of traffic jams which brought chaos to many areas of Britain. The worst delay was in Staffordshire where the M6 was closed after a military tanker overturned, covering the motorway with hundreds of gallons of aviation fuel. Fire services immediately closed the carriageway in both directions. A five-vehicle pile-up on the A48 near Carmarthen, Dyfed, which resulted in 12 minor injuries, including seven to children, also caused severe disruption. Yesterday's incident follows the death of a six-month-old baby in a crash in North Wales on Sunday. **James Mellor**

Britain rejoins development agency

Britain is to rejoin the international development organisation Unesco in the next five weeks, the Government announced yesterday.

The announcement reverses the Tory government's decision 12 years ago to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. The new Government disclosed in the Queen's Speech two weeks ago that it would rejoin, but had not set a date. The announcement that Britain would join by 1 July was made by Secretary of State for International Development Clare Short (left) at an executive meeting of Unesco. She said in the statement, delivered by aide Toby Bazeley,

that Britain wanted to take part in the organisation's aid to poor countries. Unesco is an autonomous agency of the United Nations, based in Paris. It aims to promote learning, preserve the world's heritage and exchange ideas and information between nations.

No change in surrogacy law

A change in the law on surrogacy, effectively banning surrogate motherhood in return for the payment of expenses, is most unlikely, Whitehall sources indicated last night. While contract-based commercial surrogacy is illegal in Britain, questions have been raised about the alleged payment of expenses in excess of £10,000 to "host" mothers.

A Department of Health spokesman said yesterday: "If there is anything that comes to light that gives us concern, we will have a look at the existing law to see if it is adequate." But he stressed there was no presumption in favour of tightening legislation. Ruth Deitch, chairwoman of the Human Embryology and Fertilisation Authority, said recently that she thought the existing law was sound, although there may be some concern about people taking the payment of expenses too far. **Anthony Bevilacqua**

Farm-hand held over mother's death

A farm worker charged with murdering his elderly mother was remanded in custody when he appeared in court yesterday.

Magistrates at Yeovil, Somerset, remanded Peter Pitman, 46, of Priory Farm, Charlton Mackrell, near Somerset, until Thursday. Mr Pitman lived at the farm with his 75-year-old mother Janet, who suffered from rheumatoid arthritis. The body of Mrs Pitman, who had been shot, was found in a field near her home on Friday.

Bogus guard walks off with £50,000

A man posing as a security guard walked off with more than £50,000 in a daring daylight raid on a motorway service station, police said yesterday.

The raider, who was not thought to be armed, walked into the Granada service station on the M4 at Chieveley near Reading, Berkshire, on Sunday, and was allowed into the room where the safe was housed. He then handcuffed and gagged two women cashiers before snatching two days' worth of takings from the safe. The two women were said to be badly shocked but unhurt. No one from Granada was available to discuss the raid.

people



Unreleased tapes of the young Bob Marley could fetch millions Photograph: Partridge and Storey

Marley's unknown legend that could sell for £60m

Previously unreleased tracks by the late reggae singer Bob Marley, have been put up for sale for £60m by his former producer.

Danny Sims, who signed Marley to his JAD record label between 1969 and 1971 before the legendary Jamaican switched to the Island stable, has the rights to 200 tracks produced by the artist.

"Bob has surpassed being just a music legend," said Mr Sims. "He has become a leader of a worldwide musical faith kept alive by his family, those who love the man and his music and the sheer originality and quality of his voice and songs."

Marley, nicknamed the Poor Man's Pope because so many of his songs preached revolution and freedom from oppression, was born in 1945, the son of a British army captain and a Jamaican woman.

Brought up in Kingston, he worked as an electrical welder before forming a reggae group, Bob Marley and the Wailers in 1963. Hits such as "No Woman, No Cry" and "I Shot the Sheriff" catapulted the band to fame

and made Marley an influential political voice.

In 1976 he narrowly escaped an assassination attempt which left his wife, Rita, seriously injured. Five years later the committed Rastafarian died from cancer in Miami at the age of 36.

In recent years re-releases of Marley's music have enjoyed success in the British charts and, with the news that a session by Paul McCartney and John Lennon made after the Beatles had split could be worth £2m, Sims is expecting multi-million pound bids for the tapes.

Included amongst the tracks are solo compositions by Marley, early versions of Wailers' hits and cover versions of songs by American artists such as James Brown.

Jeremy Collingwood, President of the British Marley Appreciation Society, believes the discovery of new material is significant. He said: "There are many gems amongst these tapes. It could be thought of as the equivalent of discovering a roomful of early Picassos."

James Mellor

Woman bomber takes aim at rough justice

Kelly Flinn, the US air force's first female B52 pilot, has spoken publicly for the first time since she decided to save herself and the US air force further embarrassment by accepting a general discharge from the armed forces.

Interviewed by *Time* magazine, she said she would probably "throw some outdoor gear in the Jeep, put the top down, get myself a dog and go".

She is still at the air force base at Minot, North Dakota, where procedures for her departure are expected to take up to 10 days.

Ms Flinn said she was fully prepared to be disciplined for her admitted adultery and disobedience, but felt that her case should have been handled outside the military judicial system.

She said she had been hoping for a sanction that could have included a fine, a reprimand, demotion or transfer. "Then," she said, "I could salute smartly, get Marc Zigo [her lover] the hell out of my life and move on."

Instead, she found herself facing up to nine years in prison, in a case that inflamed American opinion and prompted awkward questions about whether men and women in the US armed forces were really treated equally.

Along with giving her side of the story to *Time*, Ms Flinn had to suffer the indignity of seeing made



public facsimile extracts from some of her love letters to Mr Zigo (who was not only married but wanted for wife-battering). The letters, reportedly found and "shared with" the magazine by Mr Zigo's former wife, Gayla, were written in childish handwriting and ended: "I'll love you always, Kelly."

Of her disastrous relationship with Mr Zigo, Ms Flinn joked to *Time* that the next person she decided to go out with "is going to have to be fingerprinted and have a full 'background' check".

Described by her family as "emotionally and physically exhausted", Ms Flinn told the magazine: "I've lost my innocence, and I've lost my ability to trust people." She said she hoped people in the air force would "think of people as human beings and realise they are subject to human mistakes and human errors. I hope that ... people will reconsider how they should apply punishment".

Mary Dejevsky, Washington

McAliskey gives birth to daughter

Roisin McAliskey, on remand in connection with the IRA attack last year on a British Army barracks in Osnabrück, Germany, gave birth to a baby girl yesterday while under armed guard in hospital. However, Ms McAliskey's mother, the former MP Bernadette Devlin, said no members of the security service were present at the birth.

The delivery came three days after Ms McAliskey was taken to the Whittington Hospital, north London, from her prison cell in nearby Holloway prison. Ms McAliskey, who suffers from asthma, made the short trip on Friday with an escort of armed police following a court hearing. The baby was then two days overdue.

A spokesman for the Róisín McAliskey campaign said yesterday: "She has had the baby. It is a 5lb 13oz girl. I gather it was quite a long labour and Róisín is very tired, but they are both fine."

A spokeswoman for Whittington Hospital said later that "both mother and baby are doing well".

Ms McAliskey has been held on remand in Holloway while fighting extradition to Germany in connection with last summer's attack.

Despite the campaign over her pregnancy and asthma, she had been refused bail until Friday.

The hospital's chief executive Jane Perin confirmed at the weekend that there would be a "police presence" and strengthened security during Ms McAliskey's stay.

Matthew Brace

briefing

SPENDING

The shopper of 2001: older, richer and more discerning

The average British shopper in 2001 will be richer, older and more picky than today and will prefer out-of-town malls to the high street, new research says.

A report by retail researchers Verdict on consumer demand in 2001 concludes there will be a fundamental shift in patterns of shopping and income distribution over the next five years. A slight fall in the birth rate 30 years ago together with higher youth unemployment means that by 2001 there will be fewer people in their twenties with less to spend than there are today. Older people will have the greatest spending power, benefiting from inherited wealth, building society windfall gains and insurance company payouts. The report concludes that consumers over the next five years will be much more demanding and will want to shop around - at major shopping centres rather than secondary high streets.

Verdict says the boom markets in retail over the next five years will be electrical products, driven by computer games, software and accessories. Television sales will be boosted by the advent of digital technology and mail order and sportswear will show strong growth and consumers will switch back to brands. Childswear and food sales will show the weakest growth. **Sameena Ahmed**

EDUCATION

Teachers overawed by computers



Many teachers lack confidence in new technology and are insufficiently trained to teach the national curriculum in information technology, a new survey of school heads has found. Eighty per cent of headteachers questioned for BBC2's *Computers Don't Bite* programme broadcast last night, said teachers lacked confidence in using computers, and 68 per cent said staff did not know enough about information technology to teach it for the national curriculum - 57 per cent said this of even newly qualified teachers. The survey supported findings by Ofsted, the schools inspectorate, which suggested that standards in information technology were weaker than all other subjects.

Nigel De Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union Women Teachers, said: "[Teachers] are expected to become subject specialists in a whole range of areas overnight and they are just not prepared." He believed that a government-funded centrally co-ordinated training system was needed to bring teachers up to date.

Pre-school campaigners are urging the Government to harmonise regulations covering services from nannies to nursery schools. Ministers say they aim to promote better integration between child care and pre-school education, as part of plans to expand nursery schooling. But the Daycare Trust said that expansion should not be at the expense of quality. Services from birth to the beginning of statutory school age were currently dogged by a proliferation of inconsistent regulations, it said.

INDUSTRY

Rural firms neglected

The survival of very small rural businesses could be under threat unless the Government takes action to provide better advice and resources, the Country Landowners Association (CLA) and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) have claimed. Rural firms with fewer than 10 staff were receiving "less and less attention", and the CLA said were "even excluded" from the Business Links support structure for smaller firms. The "serious" cutback in Rural Development Commission services had also reduced its support. The CLA and FSB said they would be taking their concerns to ministers at the Department of Trade and Industry.

HOUSING

Worst estates due for demolition

Billions of pounds of local council capital for housing should be carefully targeted at Britain's most run-down estates, a new report says today. The money should be steered towards re-developing "the very worst properties", according to the Institute for Public Policy Research think-tank. And it said such redevelopment would mean knocking down and rebuilding some estates. The Government is committed to releasing £5bn of local council capital receipts for building new housing and renovating existing stock.

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Laid bare: Mark Banks's latest stained glass creation *The Last Supper*, with Jesus and the Disciples represented by teddy bears – a recurring theme in his work Below: The artist in his workshop

Photographs: David Rose

Today's the day the teddy bears have their Last Supper

Kathy Marks

Mark Banks wipes the final specks of cement off his latest creation, a portrayal in stained glass of the Last Supper in which Jesus and the Disciples are represented as bears.

This type of subversion of the religious imagery traditionally associated with stained glass led one London gallery to reject his work as too controversial when he was looking for a place to exhibit. But for Mr Banks, who has decided to cock a snook at the established art world by staging his own exhibition, it is emblematic of his fresh approach to a centuries-old art form. The bears, recurring figures in his work, appear not just in religious settings, but also in bars and nightclubs, where they drink and smoke.

"I wanted to alter the public conception of stained glass, to take it out of the church context and make it appeal to a wider audience," he says.

In *The Last Supper*, his largest and most intricate pane, the Disciples

lounge around a table wearing expressions that range from piety to boredom. One has his paw stuck in a jar of honey; a second has just spilt his wine. In another window, a Nativity scene is again peopled by bears.

If the work is unusual, then so is Mr Banks's background. Born with Treacher Collins Syndrome, a rare genetic condition resulting in severe facial deformity, he spent most of his childhood and early adulthood in hospitals undergoing surgery to rebuild his features. The disability, he believes, has given him an profound appreciation of natural beauty.

The tapes of rock music that sustained him through the endless rounds of operations also inspired another leitmotif that runs through his art. Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, John Lennon and Bob Marley are among the performers that he has portrayed.

Mr Banks, 32, who works out of two sheds at the bottom of his garden in Chingford, north-east London, had creative leanings as a child but failed

his art O-level twice. His enthusiasm was re-ignited by a visit in 1987 to Presley's Graceland mansion in Memphis, which features a collection of elaborately painted windows.

"Something just clicked," he says. On his return, he set about teaching himself the art and craft of stained glass. The bears theme, he says, occurred to him in a dream in which he visualised two tarty-looking female bears in mini-skirts, stockings and high heels. He reproduced the image in a work he calls *Bear Burns*.

While the exhibition at Gallery Forty-Seven in July is Mr Banks's first attempt to gain commercial recognition, he has managed to interest a number of celebrities in his art. He has made a window for Uri Geller featuring crystals and heat spoons, and one for Emma Thompson, the actress, which includes an enormous Oscar figurine.

"There's something magical about working with glass," he says. "It's a unique art form."



Legal delay may halt abortion plan

Steve Boggan

Lawyers representing a father who is trying to prevent his estranged wife from aborting their baby have been told that the House of Lords cannot hear his case until next Monday – when she will be more than 15 weeks pregnant.

The delay, due to the Whit holidays, could be significant because Lynne Kelly revealed yesterday that she may go through with the birth if the case continues to drag on.

James Kelly, 28, Edinburgh, has lost at every step on the way to the Lords, but an order is still in place preventing Mrs Kelly from having a termination. After Mr Kelly lost his case at the Court of Appeal, it was assumed that the Lords would sit soon afterwards. But Wendy Sheehan, Mr Kelly's solicitor, said yesterday: "The House of Lords, both the clerks and the court itself, is closed this week. But the clerk's office is prepared to open this Wednesday at 10am for us to lodge the petition."

The date that has been pencilled in to hear the case is Monday next week. It has yet to be confirmed. They simply could not convene five law lords and clerks and court staff before Monday."

The delay could have an influence over 21-year-old Mrs Kelly's decision to abort or proceed with the pregnancy. She told the *Daily Record* newspaper yesterday: "The way things are just now I will carry on with the abortion. But if the matter is delayed further by the courts, then I may have to reconsider."

Smoking a cigarette, she added: "When I first went to see the doctors, they told me I had got there at the right time. But more than a week has now passed, so that starts to leave questions in my mind. If the case goes to the House of Lords, who

knows when it will be heard? That could make the difference of me having to have a labour-induced termination – and that is something I would have very strong doubts about."

David Painfin, a retired gynaecologist and chairman of the Birth Control Trust, said the delay of an extra week did not represent a significant increase in the complications. He said the type of abortion favoured by Mrs Kelly could be safely performed up to 18 weeks.

"Abortion is legal up to 24 weeks. From an ethical and medical point of view, there is no problem up until that point. But, for the woman, it becomes more prolonged and uncomfortable. At 14 weeks there is twice the risk of complications than at, say six or eight weeks. But this risk is still only two per thousand... I would be more concerned about the protracted uncertainty and anxiety."

Mrs Kelly was in hiding last night with representatives of the *Daily Record* and *The Mirror*, but her uncle, Willie Falconer, said that the family had been shocked by revelations in court that Mr Kelly was convicted of assaulting her last year.

"How would you feel if it were your sister or your niece that was getting beaten up?" he said. Mr Falconer said the family had been angered by Mr Kelly's appearances on television. "What's been going on is, this guy's been saying, when he went along to the TV studios, 'I hope Lynne is getting counselling and I hope the family are taking care of her'. That's what he should have been doing. No woman is going to walk out of her marriage OK." He challenged Mr Kelly publicly to deny having assaulted his wife, despite evidence given in court that he was convicted on 15 May 1996.

Letters, page 15

Helen Mirren: *Prime Suspect* star in the prime of life

She's 51, but still the sexiest

Louise Jury

In a poll calculated to hearten every middle-aged woman, the actress Helen Mirren has been voted the sexiest woman on television.

The star of the *Prime Suspect* detective series, who last year posed naked at 50, beat a clutch of younger contenders to win the approval of readers of *Radio Times* magazine. She attracted a 5 per cent lead over the *X-Files*' Gillian Anderson followed by Jennifer Aniston of *Friends* and presenter Ulrika Jonsson.

However, the *X-Files*, the cult American series, can boast the sexiest man. David Duchovny trounced home-grown talent including actors Colin Firth and Neil Pearson and sports presenter Des Lynam.

Nearly 40,000 people returned the *Radio Times* survey of viewing and listening habits. The editor Sue Robinson said it showed what a major part television plays in our lives. More than one-quarter said they would not give it up even for large sums of cash. The survey found that 45 per

cent of those who replied were more shocked by the news than crime programmes. ITN's Trevor McDonald was the news reader the public most trusts, just ahead of the BBC's Michael Buerk. Michael Parkinson was the best-ever British chat-show host, with 47 per cent of the vote compared with 12 per cent for Clive James.

The readers overwhelmingly regarded Chris Evans, the former Radio 1 disc jockey, as a fool and would most like to receive the kiss of life from Dr Ross, of the American medical drama *ER*. Inspector Morse was the favourite detective.

Readers' main concern was excessive violence – 47 per cent said films with a violent content should be censored. Yet 45 per cent thought films should not be cut at all. Of those who replied, 58 per cent watched television for between one and three hours a day and another third watched for more than four hours a day. One per cent overwatched any television at all. Forty-two per cent listened to the radio for between one and three hours a day.



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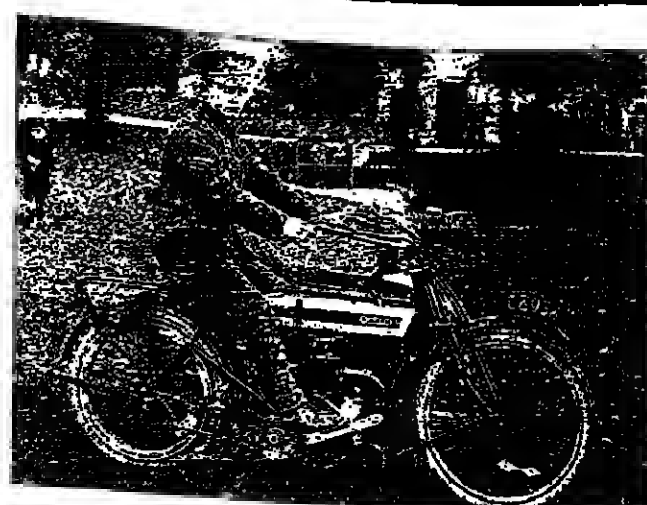
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Joseph Stones and the Bible given to his wife when he joined the Durham Light Infantry. Stones's quick thinking helped him and his comrades, including Peter Goggins, left, escape a German patrol. Both were shot for cowardice

Photograph: Keith Dobney/North News

Shot at dawn: the scared young men who lied to fight in Flanders

They were sick, cold, hungry, tired and terrified. They saw their friends bombed, gassed and cut to pieces in spectacular numbers and they were reduced to trembling wrecks by relentless shellfire and the imminence of their own demise. Many had lied about their age to fight for King and Country. But 307 of them were executed by their comrades, often for little more than being frightened, confused young men. Between 1914 and 1920, more than 3,000 British soldiers were sentenced to death by courts martial for desertion, cowardice, striking an officer, disobedience, falling asleep on duty or casting away arms. Although only 11 per cent of the sentences were carried out, those who were shot at dawn were denied legal representa-

Reports by
Steve Boggan

tion and the right of appeal. Medical evidence which showed that many were suffering from shell-shock – or post-traumatic stress disorder – was either not submitted to the courts or was ignored. Most hearings lasted no more than 20 minutes. Transcripts made public 75 years after the events suggest that some of the men were under duress. Others appeared to have wandered away from the battlefield in states of extreme distress and confusion, yet they were charged with desertion. One 19-year-old, Pte George Roe of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, was executed for desertion, even though one witness told his

court martial: "[Roe] came up to me and asked if I was a policeman. He told me that he had lost his way and had been wandering about for two days." Another 19-year-old, Pte James Archibald of the 17th Royal Scots, told his comrades he "felt queer" while en route to the trenches at 6.30pm on 14 May 1916. At 3pm the next day, he was found asleep in a barn. He was shot by firing squad three weeks later.

Sgt Joe Stones of the Durham Light Infantry was arrested in January 1917 after an ambush in which his commanding officer was killed. Stones, whose previous bravery had been acknowledged by officers, had wedged his non-functioning rifle across a narrow trench to slow down Germans who were pursuing him. He was deemed

to have "cast away his arms" and was executed. Pte Joseph Byers was under age when he enlisted in 1914. By January 1915, the war had ground the young man down and he went absent without leave. After being caught, he admitted attempting to desert in the naïve belief that his honesty and contrition would earn him a prison sentence. He was shot at dawn two weeks later.

Andrew Mackinlay, the Labour MP for Thurrock who has been campaigning for pardons for the men for five years, said: "When the suppressed documents relating to these courts martial were released, they showed that these men were demonstrably shell-shocked."

"Even where we can't prove the men were ill, we can say that there was one common denominator – they were all denied

natural justice. None was given access to legal representation or the right of appeal. Most of them were not given proper medical examinations and so their conditions were ignored." Mr Mackinlay would like to see either a blanket pardon by royal prerogative – which would not require legislation – or each case to be examined on its merits by High Court judges. None of the cases he is concerned with

involves treason or mutiny. Julian Putkowski, co-author of *Shot at Dawn* (Pen & Sword), said: "The function of these executions was to intimidate and frighten soldiers in the battlefield to get them to take part in pointless exercises in which thousands were slaughtered."

"The composite soldier in the trenches would be suffering from chronic insomnia and anxiety attacks. He would be wet

and cold in wind-chill factors that dragged temperatures as low as minus-18. "It was enough to drive anyone crazy. To say that all these men who were shot were bad and deserved their punishment is to ignore all these factors. Most just couldn't take any more." By 1930, Parliament had introduced legislation banning the death sentence for the offences for which the 307 were shot.

'He was the last man capable of cowardice'

Sgt Joe Stones stood at just 5ft 2ins tall, but he was promoted over the heads of stronger men because of his acknowledged bravery and leadership qualities. Time and again he led barbed-wire parties out into No Man's Land, risking his life while caring for the men in his charge. But he was executed for "casting away his arms" in one of the most bizarre tragedies of the war. Stones, 25, of the 19th Durham Light Infantry, had been in the trenches of northern France for a year when, one cold morning in January 1917, he went on patrol with his commanding officer. The men were ambushed by Germans and the officer was killed, but Stones couldn't return fire because he had not removed a protective cover from the breach of his rifle.

The young sergeant turned and ran but had the presence of mind to wedge his rifle across a narrow trench to slow the Germans. He reached his comrades in the rear, shouting: "The Hun are upon us," and gave them enough time to escape. However, he was charged with casting away his arms and two corporals, John McDonald and Peter Goggins, were charged with quitting their posts as they made their escape. At Stones's court martial, one officer, Lt J. Rider, wrote: "I have personally been out with him in No Man's Land and always found him keen and bold. In the trenches, he never showed the least sign of funk. ... I have had countless opportunities of seeing him under bad circumstances. I can safely say

that he was the last man I would have thought capable of any cowardly action." But Stones, along with the corporals, was executed anyway. Like many families whose sons were shot at dawn, Stones's never spoke of him again. His great nephew, Tom Stones, 56, found out about him only last year. "My grandfather was a lay preacher and he kept a bible with details of family members, the war and battles written inside – but there was no mention of my great uncle Joe," he said. "What they did to him makes me very angry. They shot him like a rat. It's clear that the poor bugger was no coward. I don't want a medal for him, but I do think he should get a pardon and an apology."

'He was shaking so much he couldn't hold a pen'



Farr: Wanted to report sick

Pte Harry Farr of the West Yorkshire Regiment had been in hospital for five months recovering from shell shock before they sent him back to the trenches. For two years, the 26-year-old married man from Kensington, west London, had been through some of the worst action of the war before he cracked up in 1916. And, four months after sending him back into the fray, he cracked up again.

The transcript of his court

martial at Ville-sur-Ancres records that Farr failed to report for duty on 17 September. He fell out without permission, intending to find an officer to report sick to. However, his pleas fell on deaf ears and he was dragged, kicking and screaming, towards the front before being charged with cowardice.

He told the court martial: "I returned to the 1st Line Transport hoping to report sick to some medical officer there. On the sergeant major's return I reported to him and said I was sick and I could not stand it."

"He then said: 'You are a fucking coward and you will go to the trenches. I give fuck all for my life and I give fuck all for yours and I'll get you fucking well shot.'" He was shot at dawn on 18 October.

While he was in the hospital suffering from shell shock, a nurse wrote a letter home for him to his wife, Gertrude, because his hands were shaking too much to hold a pen. It was the last she heard from him.

Gertrude kept her husband's fate a secret for more than 70 years. She was 99 when the papers relating to his case were released and her granddaughter, Janet Booth, was able to explain that he had not been a coward, but was simply a sick young man unable to take any more killing.

"After all those years not mentioning him, she spent the last days of her life talking about Harry Farr," said Mrs Booth. "It meant an awful lot to her to have the stigma removed. Now I'd like to see my grandfather pardoned."

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Marsh Body

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As Germany's national
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Frankfurt, which

Hint of hope for nurses in murder trial

Steve Boggan

The man who holds the fate of two British nurses in his hands hinted yesterday that he had not ruled out asking a Saudi court to spare them from being beheaded.

Frank Gilford, brother of Yvonne Gilford, the Australian nurse allegedly murdered by the Britons Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan, made conflicting statements about his willingness to see the death penalty carried out. But, as a result of the Saudi court adjourning the women's trial for three weeks so lawyers could make a plea for clemency, he said he would use the time to think about his position.

Mr Gilford, of Adelaide, and

his family are the only people who can save Ms Parry and Ms McLauchlan if they are found guilty of beating, stabbing and smothering his sister to death last December at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran. He has consistently said he wanted the death penalty carried out, and appeared to adhere to that yesterday in an interview on BBC Radio 5 Live's *Midday with Mair* programme.

When asked by the journalist Eddie Mair whether he would consider clemency in the case, he replied: "Not at this stage, no." However, by the end of the five-minute interview, he appeared to soften his position. Asked what would make him ask for clemency, he replied: "That I don't know until such

time as we get more facts and time to contemplate the aspects.

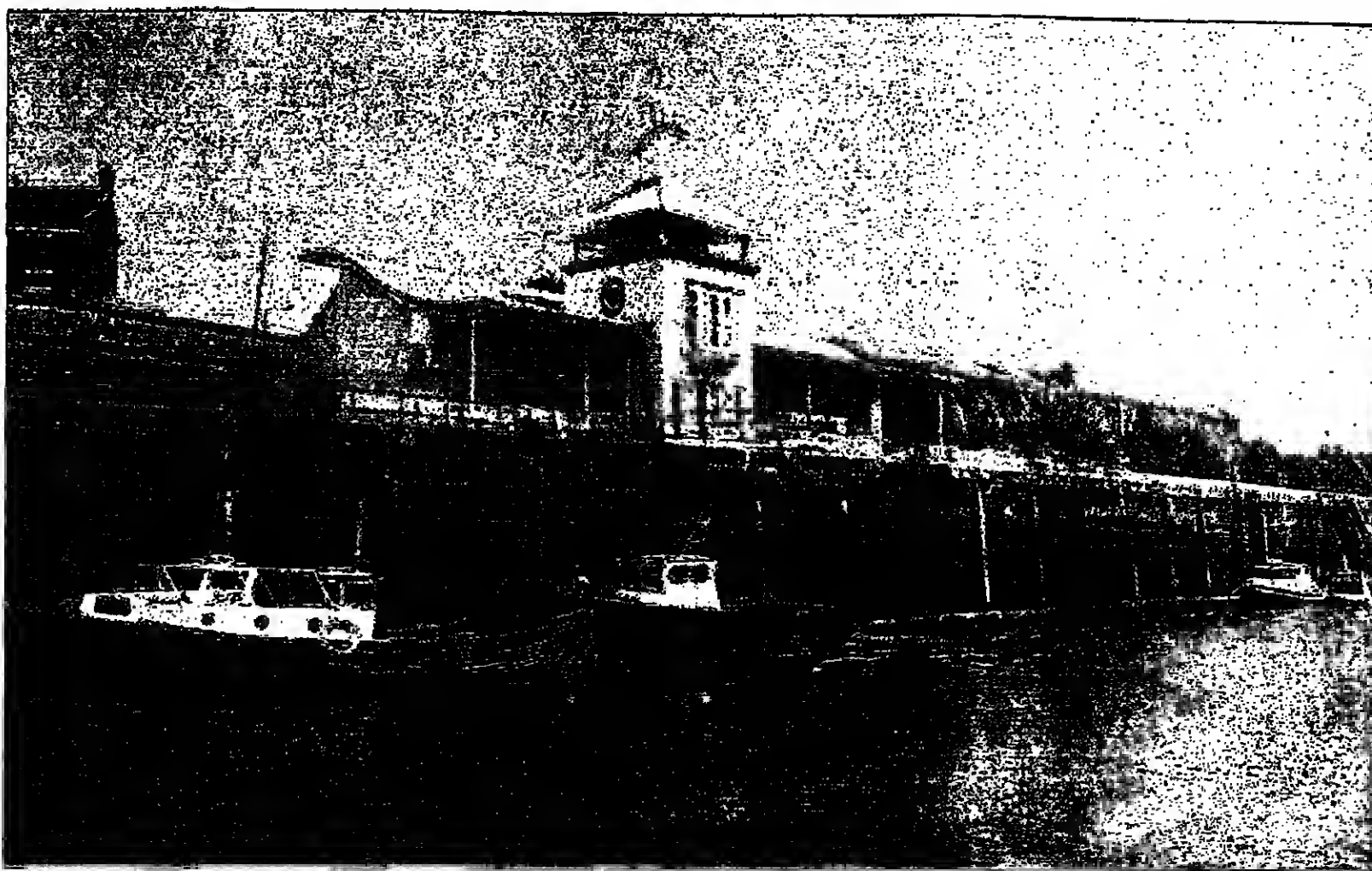
"It is something that we have some weeks to think about and contemplate. It is not a matter of a simple question, yes or no, now. It's something that we have got to think about. We can't just jump of the deep end and say, Oh yes, we're going to do this, we're going to do that."

Asked when he and his family would make a decision, he replied: "Well, give us time to think about it. We don't know." The brutal way his 55-year-old sister was killed has clearly played a large part in his calls for the penalty to be carried out. "It has not been easy - it is something that just doesn't go away," he said. "You can sort of close your eyes and see your sister there, all stab wounds and head all bashed in. It just doesn't go away."

Earlier, in an interview with Independent Radio News, Mr Gilford acknowledged that the death penalty and "blood money" - compensation for a victim's family - were not the only punishments available to the courts. "There are more options than just the blood money and the beheading," he said. "Apparently, there is imprisonment in the case as well."

Ms Parry, 41, of Alton, Hampshire, and Ms McLauchlan, 31, of Dundee, have withdrawn confessions, which they told a hearing in Al-Khobar on Sunday they made after being threatened with rape. The hearing was adjourned for three weeks so fresh approaches could be made to Mr Gilford.

His apparent willingness to consider the jail option was welcomed by Stephen Jakobi of Fair Trials Abroad. "But the problem here is not whether guilty people deserve the death penalty," he said. "It is that confession statements were obtained in highly dubious circumstances."



Off the drawing board: Ouseburn water sports centre, on the Tyne, by Newcastle-based Jane Darbyshire

Photograph: Michael Scott/North News

Female architects build on success

Louise Jury

When Jane Drew, the brilliant British architect of the Modern Movement, graduated as an architectural student in 1929 no one would give her a job.

She had received 16 marriage proposals during her studies at the Architectural Association where the predominance of men was such, she once recalled, that "you could have a hare-lip and a squint and still be taken out to lunch".

She overcame these hurdles to enjoy a long, successful career and died last July at the age of 85. This autumn, a new award celebrating women in architecture is being launched in her memory.

But the Jane Drew Award will not be alone in honouring women architects. Though they comprise only 10 per cent of the profession, they are finally in the limelight.

The Design Museum in London has just finished a series of lectures on women designers and architects. Next week the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) unveils an exhibition of their work in its Heinz Gallery.

The Prince of Wales' Institute of Architecture is holding a one-day seminar on women in architecture next week. And his magazine, *Perspectives*, this month devotes eight pages in praise of the women who, it claims, "are finally transforming this last bastion of sexism".

Joanna van Heyningen, 51, who runs her own practice with husband Birkin Haward, believes this will be the "last gasp of interest in women".

She concedes she was one of only a handful of women at a dinner of several thousand architects earlier this month. She thinks it is probably more difficult for employees, rather than

partners, and certainly for women outside London who do not get the same salaries and promotions as their male colleagues.

But the breakthrough has been made. "We've won the battle," Ms van Heyningen said.

Ms van Heyningen's experience is that being a woman can be positive. "You have a certain surprise advantage on the building site. They do slightly expect you not to know about building, but once you've shown you do, they jolly well listen."

She points out it is feasible to work as a single practitioner. "But they aren't the people who become famous. They're not doing the big, flashy buildings."

Women are being noticed for what they do. For example, Jane Darbyshire, who works in Newcastle with her partner David Kendall, was awarded the OBE in 1994 for "services to architecture" after developing a

national reputation for housing, hospice, urban renewal and sports and arts centre schemes.

Kate Macintosh gained an MBE for her long and distinguished career including work on the Royal National Theatre. And Gabriele Bramante seized the public imagination with her glass and steel Citizens' Advice Bureau in Chessington.

Denise Bennetts, 44, who runs a practice with her husband Rab producing buildings such as Powergen's headquarters, said despite the presence of some all-women practices, there was no women's movement in architecture. "Our generation felt it was more important to master the profession and be good at it."

Up to 30 per cent of the students are women and Denise Bennetts hopes they will not have to be their own bosses to succeed. "It is beholden on practices to give people the freedom," she said.



Jane Darbyshire: OBE for services to architecture

DAILY POEM

Heavenly Body

By Sarah Maguire

*I could stake out the summer at my kitchen window;
scanning the street.*

*searching for the searful stare of your Mercedes at my kerb.
Since St Swithin's Day*

*it's pelted down. On August 12th the world's astronomers
observed the Perseids.*

*expectant that Swift-Tuttle's comet dust would storm
to starlight.*

*But in Notting Hill the clouds occlude the heavens;
the passing cars*

*in darkness turn unaccused, their lights a sallow blur
along the scintillating road.*

"Heavenly Body" comes from Sarah Maguire's second collection, *The Invisible Mender*, published this week by Jonathan Cape (£7). Sarah Maguire will be reading at the Poetry Society, 22 Betterton Street, London WC2, on Thursday 29 May at 7.30pm. To reserve a seat (£5 per ticket) telephone 0171-240 2133.

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'Rainbow' coalition narrows gap in run-up to Irish poll



Fashion victim: Bertie Ahern being fitted into a Planet Hollywood jacket by the actor Sylvester Stallone at a restaurant publicity ceremony in Dublin. Photograph: Eamon Farrell

Alan Murdoch
Dublin

New opinion polls suggest that the result of Ireland's general election next week will be on a knife-edge, with the outgoing "rainbow" coalition rapidly narrowing the lead held by the centre-right opposition alliance.

Two weekend polls found the previous week's 8 per cent lead held by Bertie Ahern's Fianna Fail and the Progressive Democrats (PDs) under their hard-hitting leader Mary Harney cut to 4 per cent.

The opposition lead could now be narrower following weekend controversy over tough social policy reforms urged by Ms Harney's party. Her call for allowances for single mothers to be redirected to encourage them to stay at home with their own parents has caused unease among her prospective government partners. The Democratic Left accused the PD of "playing to intolerance for political gain" and "targeting the weakest and most vulnerable members of society."

Left-wing coalition parties could hardly conceal their glee at the PD line, which allowed

them to reaffirm their radical social concern. This prompted crisis talks between Ms Harney and Mr Ahern on Sunday. Fianna Fail also has many voters in the state sector, where the PDs want to cut 25,000 jobs.

The latest polls show Fianna Fail at 41 per cent, Fine Gael steady at 26 per cent, Labour up two points to 14 per cent, PDs down one at 5 per cent, and

Democratic Left unchanged at two.

The improved Labour showing is critical to the government retaining power, as it is now hitting the level needed to retain two-thirds of the record 33 seats it secured in 1992.

The hustings had earlier been dominated by rival tax-cutting pledges, with the opposition's plan for a 5 per cent re-

duction countered by a broader government plan to reform education, transport and health insurance levels to lift disposable incomes.

Government parties stressed that their plan would give more, wider relief to the lower paid, with the 15 per cent of top-rate tax-payers receiving assistance only after two years if finances allow.

Current party strengths in the 166-seat Dail elected in 1992 are: Fianna Fail 68; Fine Gael 46; Labour 32; PDs 8; Democratic Left 6 and Green Party 1, with five others, including the Ceann Comhairle (Speaker). Sinn Féin has an outside chance of taking its first Dail seat since it won four forty years ago in 1957.

All the major parties have re-

sisted attempts to bring abortion on to the agenda, fearing a repeat of the bonfire of individual TDs (MPs) by hard-line campaigners seen throughout the Eighties.

Last week, the conservative Archbishop of Dublin urged a new referendum to outlaw any abortion in Ireland. Dr Desmond Connell said it was "disconcerting" that opposition to abortion was not being reflected in the public positions of political parties.

The new National Party, headed by Limerick dancing teacher Nora Bennis, is backing a "pro-family" anti-abortion line and wants a £100-a-week wage to enable mothers to stay at home with their children.

Irish abortion law has been confused since a 1992 Supreme Court ruling allowed a 14-year-old girl the right to an abortion abroad after hearing that she was a suicide risk.

Three referendums later that year confirmed women's right to information about abortion and travel but rejected a loosely drafted proposal to permit terminations in Ireland where the health, as opposed to the life, of the mother was at risk.

From left to right: how the parties compare

If history is any guide Ireland's voters will opt for change - they usually do. No sitting government since 1969 has succeeded in being re-elected in the same form.

Casting a single transferable vote in 41 multi-seat constituencies, the 2.7 million electorate on 6 June will choose between the outgoing centre-left "rainbow" coalition, formed in 1994 of Fine Gael-Labour-Democratic Left, and the Fianna Fail-Progressive Democrats centre-right alternative.

Fianna Fail and Fine Gael derive from the 1922-23 civil war schism which followed British withdrawal. Fianna Fail, created in 1926 by supporters of Eamon de Valera, opposed partition and, until the Republic was declared in 1948,

an oath of allegiance to the Crown under the treaty with Britain. With its legendary electoral machine, Fianna Fail held power for 49 of the 74 years since the state was formed. More national movement than political party, it linked small farmers and urban workers under a republican umbrella. Since the Sixties, as it moved towards big business, its urban strength has been eroded by the left.

Fine Gael emerged from Michael Collins's allies who backed the treaty. Its support, notably from conservative Catholic farmers and professional classes, peaked at 39 per cent in 1979.

Fianna Fail and Fine Gael have sim-

ilar economic policies. Today it is the smaller parties that give coalitions their colouring. Dick Spring's moderate Labour, founded in 1912, is the third party in size and reached its peak vote in 1992 winning 19 per cent of the vote and 33 Dail seats.

The mainly urban, middle-class Progressive Democrats, who married new-right economics and liberal social views, were launched in 1985 after a Fianna Fail split, entering government with that party from 1989-92. The Democratic Left grew out of a splinter group from the official Republican movement which turned to constitutional politics.

Kickboxer in fatal fight

A kickboxer died in Northern Ireland yesterday after collapsing in the ring.

Sean McBride, 18, from Dungannon, Co Tyrone, was taken from the ring to South Tyrone Hospital, apparently after being stuck a blow on the back of the head. He was then transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, where he was put on a life-support machine. He died without regaining consciousness.

Sean, a meat plant worker, fell at the end of his contest at a hotel near Dungannon. Police

have been called in to investigate the death and an inquest is to be held.

His mother, Mary McBride, said: "Football and boxing were his life. I didn't want to stop him fighting because I knew it meant too much to him."

Mrs McBride, her husband Sean and daughters Ciara, Fiona and Aime, were sitting among the crowd at the Glangannon Hotel where her son collapsed on Friday night.

The teenager's death, thought to be the first ever from injuries sustained during a kickboxing

match, was a tragedy waiting to happen, according to the Belfast-based world champion.

Billy Murray, International Sport Kickboxing Association world champion, said he had long complained about inadequate safety measures employed by some branches of the sport. "The people at fault here are the Sports Council. For many years we have been battling to get all the kickboxing groups to come together and get a governing body and we have asked the Sports Council to do this on many occasions."

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

A Scottish parliament could have its uses, Malcolm Rifkind, the former foreign secretary, has conceded in a remarkable toning down of dire pre-election Tory warnings about devolution.

Mr Rifkind, who lost his Edinburgh Pentlands seat in the election, told *The Scotsman* newspaper: "As we have our own Scottish legal system, and have a separate Scottish office, then there could be some utility in having these matters de-

termined by an elected parliament in Scotland."

But he said the potential disadvantages - the threat posed to Scottish representation in Westminster and Whitehall, and the risk of a cut in the favourable public expenditure allocation - outweighed the advantages.

He also said the risk of a break-up of the United Kingdom was low - in spite of the gory threats presented by his party during the election campaign. In one particularly strong speech, John Major had said Tony Blair was threatening to

take the ancient and functioning constitution of the United Kingdom "and gash through the tapestry with a vandal's knife. And what would be the consequence? ... a Disunited Kingdom drifting towards a United States of Europe."

Mr Rifkind said of the threat of break-up: "I believe there is a risk that that could happen. But I also believe the innate good sense of the Scottish and the English - a determination to persevere in the UK - means that it is highly probable that the UK will survive."



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international

Chirac feeds off Juppé's sacrifice

John Lichfield
Paris

With one bound our hero was free. The unpopular Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, announced yesterday that he would carry the responsibility for the crushing first-round rejection suffered by his centre-right government in the first round of parliamentary elections on Sunday.

But President Jacques Chirac's hand will be pictured by many behind the back of his long-time servant and ally, compounding the president's reputation as a reckless political dice-roller and determined escapist.

Mr Juppé's decision is politically unprecedented and constitutionally extremely doubtful. His departure may be enough to tip the second round towards the centre-right but there could also be a reaction against what will be seen as a cynical manoeuvre.

President Chirac's decision to call a snap election already pushed the constitution of the Fifth Republic to its limit. The ditching of a prime minister between rounds of a parliamentary election strains the bounds of presidential propriety.

Will it succeed? It may. Mr Juppé, leader of Mr Chirac's party, the Gaullist RPR, was the second least popular prime minister in recent history. The prospect that President Chirac might appoint a more consensual and charismatic figure – possibly the outgoing parliamentary president, Philippe Séguin – could persuade many disaffected centre-right voters to turn out in the second round on Sunday.

But the appalling first round score of the RPR and its allies the UDF – at 31 per cent, the worst by the centre right in 40 years – was also a rebuff for Mr Chirac and Chiracism. It was the President, as much as Mr Juppé, who failed to deliver on



Three-way split: The National Front mayor of Toulon, Jean-Marie Chevalier (centre) with party followers. The NF gained 15 per cent of the vote on Sunday. Photograph: Brian Han

his promises of two years ago to cut unemployment and heal France's "social fractures". It was the President who took the decision to call the election nine months early. It was the President's RPR party which endured some of the most stinging reverses on Sunday night.

In the President's one-time unassailable fortress, the city of Paris, the centre-right may lose six seats, including that of Mr Chirac's long-time friend and successor as Mayor, Jean Tiberi.

To protect the last five years of his presidency from cohabitation with a left-wing government, the President is expected to make another personal intervention before Sunday – probably in a television address on Thursday or Friday evening. What remains of constitutional etiquette will prevent him from naming Mr Juppé's potential successor. But leaks may fill the gap.

Will it be semi-dissident Mr Séguin of the RPR, a man who

has recently curbed his EMU-scepticism? Or will it be the rising force in the UDF, the education minister, François Bayrou? Sources within the RPR say Mr Chirac would be extremely unwilling to appoint either man since the post might provide a springboard for them to challenge him for the presidency in 2002. A reconciliation with Mr Chirac's old friend, Edouard Balladur, who unsuccessfully used the premiership to try to do just that in 1995, is

regarded as out of the question. The great personal victor of the first round is undoubtedly the Socialist leader, Lionel Jospin. Whatever the outcome this weekend, he is now established as the clear master of the French left.

Sunday's vote re-established the Socialists, with 25.5 per cent, as the most popular single party in France. The loose alliance of Socialists, Communists and Greens, together with minority leftist parties, scored

44.3 per cent in the first round. This could provide the platform for a narrow win by the left on Sunday. But Mr Jospin has few political reserves to call on.

The non-vote on Sunday – including spoiled ballots a near-record 35 per cent – is believed to be disproportionately on the centre-right. Mr Jospin's hopes depend, with dark irony, on the behaviour of the far-right National Front. In those constituencies where the NF candidate has

been eliminated, the far-right votes, on past form, should transfer to the centre-right.

The left's chances of forming a majority depend on winning many of the 78 seats, out of 577, in which the right-wing vote will be split by a three-cornered fight between the left, the centre-right and the NF. It seems the left's chances of winning these seats is good. But to have a real chance of power, Mr Jospin probably needed perhaps 100 or 150 three-way battles.

Arafat berated over jail torture

Eric Silver
Jerusalem

"If you had heard them," said Youssef Musa, 56, a Palestinian driver, in Jerusalem yesterday, "you wouldn't have wept tears, you would have wept blood."

Mr Musa spoke after visiting his son, Imad, in a Jericho prison. Imad, 25, is one of nine men in their twenties and thirties from Al-Khader, near Bethlehem, who have been held by Palestinian military intelligence for a year on multiple-murder charges. They are alleged to have acted on orders from an Israeli secret service agent.

Palestinian human rights workers believe they were

framed by a security apparatus running out of control. On 7 February Yasser Arafat's Justice Minister, Freih Abu-Medein, told the Palestinian parliament they were innocent and would be released within 48 hours. Three months later they are still behind bars. Their trial has been set for 22 June.

The Palestinian authorities now say they have all confessed. But the nine claim they were tortured until they signed false admissions.

Youssef Musa accused their Palestinian interrogators of sexually abusing the prisoners, of threatening to settle accounts with their families, beating them and forcing them to drink

sewage water. He last saw his son on Saturday.

"He told me they raped them with their batons," he said. "They tied their hands behind them and made them stand or sit naked in one position for hours at a time. They tied them to a rod and turned them like chickens on a spit. They hit them with electric cables."

According to Bassem Eid, director of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, the Israeli army has admitted that two of the Al-Khader shootings were perpetrated by undercover Israeli soldiers.

One of the accused, Nahil Salah, 25, was serving a term in an Israeli prison when he was

supposed to have murdered a man from his village on the way to the mosque. In another case, one of the supposed murder victims had committed suicide by drinking poison in front of her husband's family.

Mr Eid was presenting his independent group's first annual report at the end of a month in which two Arab land dealers were hanged to death, apparently by Palestinian police, for selling land to Jews, and two Arab journalists have been arrested for doing their jobs.

"We are still," he said, "confronted with illegal detention, substandard prison conditions, lack of proper procedure and torture on a large scale."

Citizens tied up by red tape of Europe's free-travel zone

Sarah Helm
Brussels

Nobody has counted the number of conventions, decisions, handbooks, resolutions, or annexes that constitute the Schengen agreement, but officials estimate they would stand alone at three feet high.

Europe's first botched attempt to set up a free-travel area, the Schengen agreement is a monument to the complexity of harmonising national laws in such sensitive fields as immigration, policing and criminal justice.

In these policy areas more than any other, every country wants its sovereign rights protected and its geographical "specificity".

Over the years the Schengen machine has probably churned out more than 3,000 pages. The "common consular instruction" (harmonised visas) alone runs to hundreds of pages, with at least 14 annexes. Some might say that the sheer

unwieldiness of Schengen, signed so far by seven European countries, would have deterred the European Union's 15 member states from continuing down this path of integration, particularly at a time when the union proclaims a new commitment to simplifying its laws in order to get closer to "the citizen".

Yet this same Schengen agreement is about to become incorporated into the already labyrinthine texts of EU law.

As part of the present negotiations on EU reform, to be completed at Amsterdam in three weeks time, it is being proposed that Europe should set up an "area of freedom, justice and security". The foundations of this new EU-wide legislation will be the Schengen agreement.

The process of incorporating Schengen is causing such headaches for EU lawyers and diplomats that some predict the entire project may have to be abandoned. "It is a terrible mess," said one Brussels diplomat.

One country – Britain – bears the blame for causing such complexity. If Britain had not opposed the establishment of a EU-wide free travel area in the first place, there would have been no need for the Schengen agreement, say many European officials.

The story of Europe's attempts to establish open borders goes back to the Single European Act, under which it was agreed that, by 1992, the European Community would establish free movement of goods, services and people.

The former prime minister, Baroness Thatcher harked at free movement of people, as it would mean an end to the UK's internal border controls.

Other member states established their own free travel zone, without Britain, under the Schengen Agreement, which by next year will have been signed by 13 member states, with only Britain and Ireland outside.

Operating the Schengen sys-

tem outside the EU, however, has proved deeply unsatisfactory, and other member states are therefore keen to rationalise the process within Europe's institutional framework. This means incorporation of Schengen and acceptance of its principles by all 15 member states.

The problem is that Britain's new Labour government is once again stalling at the integration. And Tony Blair is causing even more headaches by saying that not only must Britain keep its internal borders, but it must also be able to "opt in" to other parts of Schengen such as crime data sharing.

"They just want to pick and choose – it can't be done," said one official.

For the sake of a political deal at Amsterdam a compromise is bound to be worked out. But the result will be a new European agreement of such monstrous proportions that it will far surpass the monstrosity of Schengen, meaning nothing at all to the "citizen".

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Betrayal led Taliban to bloodless triumph

Slippery deals enabled regime to capture north, writes J J Ferguson

The speed with which the end came flabbergasted everybody. Only three weeks ago, General Dostum, the defeated leader of the anti-Taliban alliance, stood on a podium in the centre of Mazar-i-Sharif for two hours as his forces, including 70 tanks and a squadron of MiG-21s, rumbled by or dipped their wings overhead in salute. Not one of those tanks or jets fired a shot against the Taliban as they advanced from the west this weekend, prompting General Dostum to flee to Tashkent and then Ankara. Never in Afghan history has so much territory been won with so little bloodshed.

The collapse of the north is not complete. Ahmed Shah Massoud, General Dostum's main ally and former defence minister in the government expelled from Kabul by the Taliban last September, still controls two or three provinces in the north-east. The territory he holds in the mountains and high passes of the Panjshir valley is a very different military prospect to the flatlands of Turkmenistan. He commands about 20,000 seasoned troops, whose loyalty to their leader appears to be of a different order to that of General Dostum's men. What Massoud and his forces do next is of crucial importance to the peace and security not just of Afghanistan but of Central Asia.

Massoud is an ethnic Tajik, whose inspired guerrilla campaign against the Taliban throughout last winter has been supported by Tajikistan and probably by Russia as well, principally from an airfield at Kulyab, in the southern Tajikistan. This weekend the Tajik President, Imomali Rakhmonov, called an emergency meeting to discuss the burgeoning crisis to the south. He has frequently expressed fears that Afghan conflicts may trigger an uncontrollable influx of refugees into Tajikistan, which shares an 800-mile border with Afghanistan and is only now emerging from a five-year civil war of its own.

There are already an estimated 1.8 million people living in Mazar, far more than its ordinary population, and a large



proportion of these are fugitives from the Taliban. With the fall of the city, those people with reason to run have nowhere left to go now but north.

Massoud, or so the theory goes, could lead some or all of his army with them if the Panjshir Valley proves untenable: the arrival of 20,000 battle-hardened former Mujahedin would upset the fragile status quo between Tajikistan's ex-communist nationalists and Muslim hard-liners, especially if the Taliban decided to pursue them across the border.

Russia, which still commands 25,000 border troops in the region, shares the fears of President Rakhmonov. Moscow believes the conflict may spread to Tajikistan's neighbours to the west and north. This weekend Yevgeny Primakov, Russia's Foreign Minister, said the a collective security treaty would be "immediately activated" if the border was violated. However, at the same time the Taliban foreign minister, Mullah Mohammed Ghous, tried to reassure the world that his government "strictly adhered to a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries".

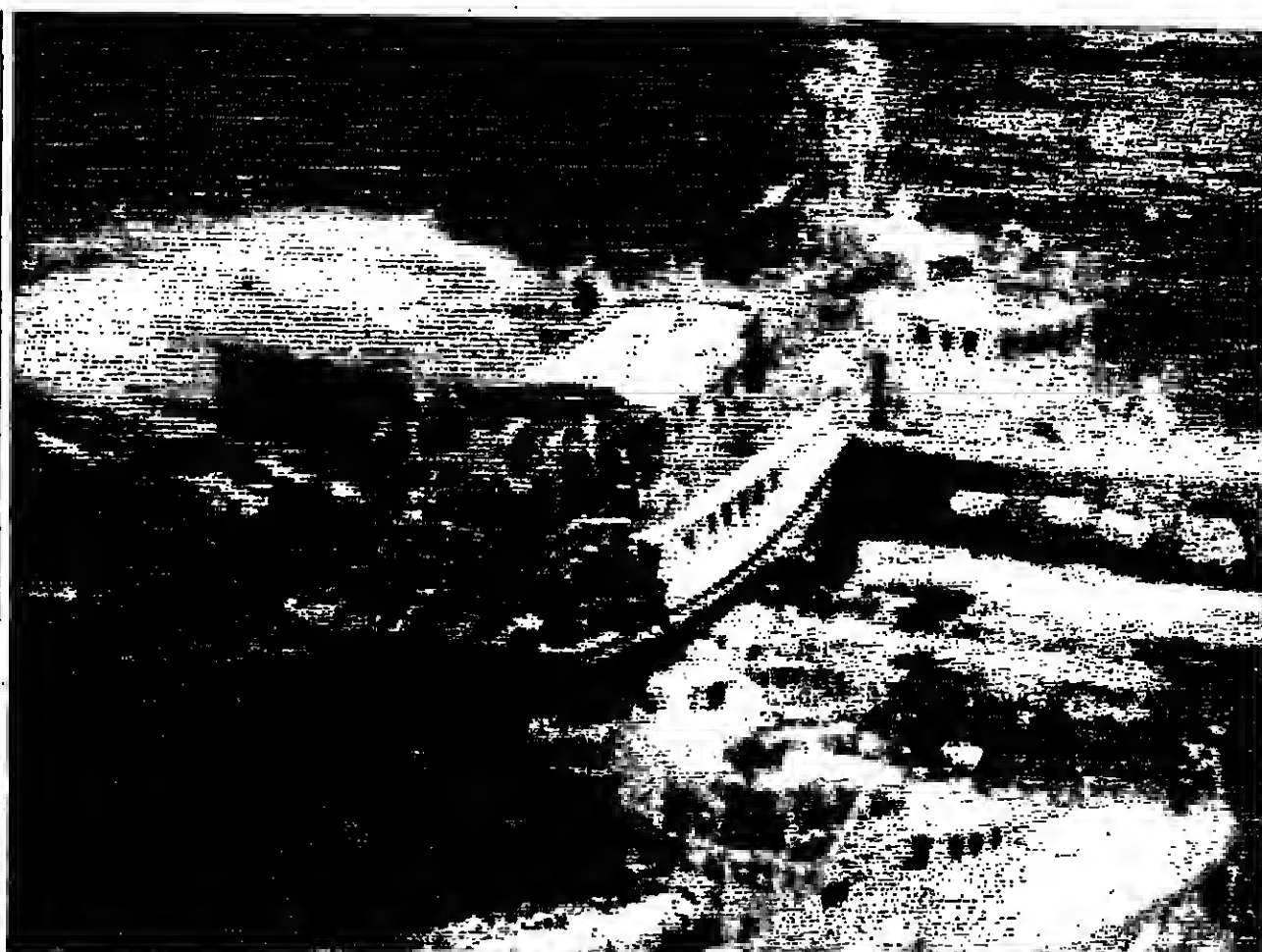
But the word of an Afghan leader is often worthless, as the Russians found to their cost during their 10-year occupation of the country. General Abdul-Majeed Rozi is a case in point. He was one of General Dostum's most trusted commanders and once famously accepted an \$11m (£7m) bribe to capitulate to the Taliban and then did

nothing of the kind. Yesterday he was on the streets of Mazar, calling for the population not to be afraid of their new masters and to reopen their shops.

General Rozi was instrumental in the collapse of the western front that made the capture of Mazar possible. Interviewed at 18 Division Headquarters on that front line by *The Independent* only one month ago, General Rozi's antipathy to the fundamentalists from the south seemed sincere. "Maybe the Talibs are not good Muslims," he said. "What Muslim would hit women with sticks?"

Who knows what slippery deal the Taliban struck with General Rozi in order to get him to change his mind. "I've been a soldier for 27 years," he said last month. "My job is to take orders. I leave politics to the politicians." Yet he did not hesitate to betray General Dostum.

As the Taliban prepares to move east from Mazar for the final offensive, the world is watching to see whether Massoud will have the same problem with his commanders.



The *Diao Yu Tai*, a protest boat from Hong Kong, runs into a patrol boat of Japan's Maritime Safety Agency yesterday during a protest over Tokyo's claim to an island chain near the Senkakus, in the East China Sea. Photograph: Reuters

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Why not change the way we work?

Iran's new head brings dialogue into the open

Robert Fisk
Tehran

There are portraits of Rimboud and Braudel on the walls of Morad Saghaei's neat little Tehran office, along with piles of his latest magazine. And like the rest of his tiny staff, the francophone Mr Saghaei is a happy man, rejoicing in the extraordinary election victory of Mohamed Khatami – not because of the new president's personality, but because of what his success represents.

"The people asked their candidate to take care of their day-to-day life and not only of their life after death," Mr Saghaei says, and pours himself a glass of scalding hot coffee to help him endure the baking hot Tehran afternoon.

Could the defining moment in Iran's domestic life be better described? "The first thing everyone in the United States, Europe and elsewhere should realise," he goes on – the words confident and carefully phrased – "is that Iranian society is a lively political society, and that the things that made people come into the streets have changed in 15 years. They voted before because they supported anti-imperialism and the holy war and the dream of constructing a unified religious society. But this time the people went to the polls for love of freedom and more tolerance."

It is something dear to Mr Saghaei's heart. For his four-year-old magazine *Dialogue* is slowly becoming one of the most respectable intellectual publications in Tehran, a stimulating collection of articles on Iran's cultural and sociological problems, along with interviews with French philosophers, even with Gary Sick, the US National Security Council adviser during the Iranian hostage crisis.

"We want to talk about the Arab-Israeli problem, about our problems with America, our non-rational attitude on counting only on the Russians for our foreign policy," Mr Saghaei says. "We can be very frank and

we think this is because we didn't try to play the role of martyrs and say we are persecuted. What we print is what we think we can print. We try to know what the limits are – because [that's the] best way to push the limits a little bit further. We want to talk – and talk about the problems we can't find in the newspapers. Our latest issue contained seven articles about democracy and how it could be implemented in Iran."

Dialogue is a quarterly whose circulation has risen from 600, when it began four years ago, to 4,000. A quarter of the budget comes from advertising and the magazine costs only 50 pence. Mr Saghaei, who is 40, is an electrical engineer and keeps



Mohamed Khatami: Will allow Iranians a 'place to talk'

the rent at bay with two other jobs – but this has not lowered the magazine's standards. The forthcoming election issue is likely to be among its most stimulating, asking readers to understand the implications as well as the results of the poll.

"Khatami had three times more votes than [the speaker of parliament] Ali Akbar Naeqi Nuri ... more than 90 per cent of the electorate voted – which means that Iranian society is not politically dead."

"Civil society here is very proud and is looking for a place to talk: at last they have this possibility with Khatami."

Dialogue in no way opposes the Islamic revolution – indeed,

it totally accepts the Islamic Republic as a nation that is going to last. Mr Saghaei was outraged and frustrated when a Scandinavian reporter asked him if there would one day be a counter-revolution. "He had read and understood nothing about us," he says angrily. "I said to him: I'm just sending my child to school for the first time. It is an immense amount of work for a government to send 19 million children to school for the first time – so do you think this is a government that is expecting a coup?" He was ridiculous.

Morad Saghaei's little magazine and its graduate founders are important because they represent the intellectual society that has been waiting for a Khatami to win the presidency. They were not uncritical of the new president, who holds a BA in philosophy and an MA in education, but have shrewdly noted that "his mind became more open after each speech he made", and, "as minister of Islamic Guidance, he gave a new life to the Iranian press".

Iranian intellectuals do not fall into the Western trap of believing that a power struggle is inevitable between President Khatami and the conservative clerics who supported his rival in the elections. True, as Mr Saghaei points out, "every politician is limited by his electoral entourage", but cohabitation between conservatives and liberals is not impossible in the next government.

Mr Saghaei, however, sitting in an office that smells of printer's ink and fresh coffee, has few illusions. No one here has forgotten the euphoria that greeted President Rafsanjani's first election victory eight years ago – and how his ambitions became humbled by the bureaucracy and intercaste power-struggles that followed. "I don't know if Khatami will continue as he has campaigned or become part of the establishment like the others," Mr Saghaei concludes.

"Yes, we all remember how happy we were at first after Rafsanjani's election."



Turkish soldiers at the Zap camp, northern Iraq, 25 kilometres south of Turkish border, captured from Kurdish PKK rebels on Saturday. Photograph: Reuters

Turkey hails rout of Kurdish foes

Army may outstay its welcome in northern Iraq, writes Christopher de Bellaigue in Ankara

As the Turkish offensive against Kurdish guerrillas in northern Iraq enters its 11th day, the generals who planned it are suggesting that modern Turkey's most extensive cross-border operation may turn into its longest.

The Turks have announced that large areas of northern Iraq are now clear of guerrillas from the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), and that the main rebel camps have been destroyed. Now, some are saying it may be several months before their men leave the area.

They are playing up the success of the operation. The Turks say they have killed 1,750 guerrillas, more than double the number reported killed during the last comparable cross-border operation, in 1995. Important PKK camps at Atrus and Zap, lying 55km and 25km inside Iraqi territory, have been taken, and hundreds of tons of food and ammunition seized. If you believe the Turkish General Staff, this is one of the most successful operations in recent

warfare, and only 18 Turkish soldiers have been killed.

The trouble is that few do believe this, although it would not be politic for Turkish newspapers, which faithfully reproduce the military's figures, to admit it. Non-military sources in Diyarbakir, the Turkish town which the PKK wishes to become capital of independent Kurdistan, estimate PKK dead at no more than 300. Likewise, the Turkish casualty figures are considered "miraculous". More scientific enumeration is difficult; journalists, whose shocking photographs of the 1995 operation helped to swing international opinion away from the Turks, were prevented from crossing the border for the first week of the operation.

Hostile international opinion is one reason why European diplomats in Ankara are not inclined to believe talk that the

operation will last until the autumn. Should the Turks remain in northern Iraq much longer than the 45 days they stayed in 1995, allies such as the Americans, who try to be supportive of such offensives, would get twitchy. So might Iraq, which despite being barred from crossing the 36th parallel into northern Iraq, has protested loudly. For the moment, however, the Turks are reassuring foreigners that the military's rhetoric has little foundation. Last Thursday's protest by Kurds inside the UN's European headquarters in Geneva was more noisy than well-attended.

One reason for this is that some Iraqi Kurdish leaders are happy for the Turks to intervene. Among them are Massoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), one of the two factions jostling for control of the region. Mr

Barzani is happy to take over the border areas that have been "liberated" by the Turks from the PKK. The KDP, which is providing military and logistic support for the Turks, claims that the PKK clears villages whose inhabitants support Mr Barzani and press-gangs youths into fighting the Turks.

While the KDP takes possession of land along the border, PKK guerrillas, who number no more than 4,000 in the region, appear to be heading east. Some have sought refuge in areas controlled by the KDP rival in the region, the PUK. Others may go further and enter Iran, which Turkey has often accused of harbouring PKK militants. Once across the border they will be untouchable. Iran says Turkish incursions into Iran, even in "hot pursuit" of PKK guerrillas, will meet with force.

In the long run, the Turks want to prevent the PKK from returning to their old camps in northern Iraq. But KDP support for Turkish presence in the region is not open-ended. Nor is the patience of the local population, which feels no more sympathy for the Turks than for the often thuggish PKK.

Turkey's objective is not to keep troops in northern Iraq at prohibitive expense but to broker a peace between the KDP and the PUK. This peace, the Turks hope, would produce the political stability which is necessary if the PKK is to be denied a permanent home.

Turkey's shorter-term objective is more modest. It is to cripple the PKK, so that the organisation is unable to launch attacks in late summer and autumn.

If the Turks can smash the PKK's logistics, delay the return of the guerrillas to northern Iraq and bolster their own morale with imaginative casualty figures, then their job will have been well done.

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and Andrew Marshall

There are rumblings in the colonies. Or rather, there are rumblings in the dependent territories, the term by which the patches of land still run from London are known.

All bar one are specks of colour on the map, where once whole swathes of continents were red. After the vast wave of decolonisation that began with India in 1947 and finishes with Hong Kong on 30 June, a mere handful of territories remain. Only British Antarctic Territory (BAT) is of any great size. The largest by population is Bermuda.

They are, apart from BAT and Gibraltar, islands: most are relics of the days when the Royal Navy ruled the waves. Only two (Ascension Island and Diego Garcia) have any military significance now, and that is mainly for the Americans, not Britain. Many have been linked to Britain for centuries. Each has a governor, who will (from time to time) put on his plumed hat. He is the representative of the Queen; government is mostly run by him with a group of local representatives, with the precise balance of power different everywhere. Foreign affairs and defence rest with London, which can also use reserved powers to block, pass or supersede legislation.

None is likely to part company with Britain any time soon, which is why this probably is the end of Britain's long retreat from Empire. Yet that leaves the problem of ruling a very disparate and far-flung group of territories.

Three (the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and Gibraltar) are claimed by other states (the first two by Argentina, the last by Spain) and the inhabitants are fiercely intent on staying British. The remainder value the link for other reasons, whether because of old loyalties, commercial or political advantages or aid and trade. None of that means that the dependent

territories (DTs) are entirely happy, though. The primary cause of unhappiness is the British Nationality Act of 1981, which stripped them of full British citizenship and created the hybrid of British Dependent Territory Citizenship. Many see this as a second-class citizenship. Significantly, many point out, both Gibraltar and the Falkland Islanders were exempted from it; and both are populated largely by people of European stock. It seems to many people a straightforwardly racist piece of legislation.

The principal reason for the Act was to prevent an influx of immigrants from Hong Kong; but after June, that ceases to be an issue. Pamela Gordon, the Premier of Bermuda, acknowledges that debate about immigration rules before the handover of Hong Kong sparked fears in Britain of an invasion of Hong Kong Chinese. Such anxieties should not apply to Bermudians, she said, implying that few would actually feel tempted by British life.

"It is not as if every Bermudian is going to get up and go over to England; England is a country with many of its own problems. When you are in a country that has one of the best per capita incomes in the world, the likelihood of scores of Bermudians picking up and emigrating to Britain would be slim to none."

None the less, all of the dependent territories that were affected by changes in British



- | Britain's last territories | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Anguilla | 7 Cayman Islands | 13 St Helena |
| 2 Ascension | 8 Falkland Islands | 14 South Georgia |
| 3 Bermuda | 9 Gibraltar | 15 South Sandwich Islands |
| 4 British Antarctic Territory | 10 Hong Kong | 16 Tristan da Cunha |
| 5 Diego Garcia | 11 Montserrat | 17 Turks & Caicos Islands |
| 6 British Virgin Islands | 12 Pitcairn Island | |

nationality law will want some revision in their status. The rules particularly badly affect St Helena. There is very high unemployment on St Helena, yet the inhabitants still have to obtain work permits before they can work in Britain. The Falkland Islands or Ascension Island, their main places of

nationality law will want some revision in their status. The rules particularly badly affect St Helena. There is very high unemployment on St Helena, yet the inhabitants still have to obtain work permits before they can work in Britain. The Falkland Islands or Ascension Island, their main places of

outside employment. "Saints," inhabitants of one of Britain's first colonies, feel badly let down. Though reports earlier this year of riots were untrue, there is a lot of bad feeling.

The remaining territories feel that they get important benefits from the Union Flag, despite the fact that many of the Caribbean dependencies are increasingly closer to the US than to Britain. Bermuda voted in a referendum only two years ago to stay British.

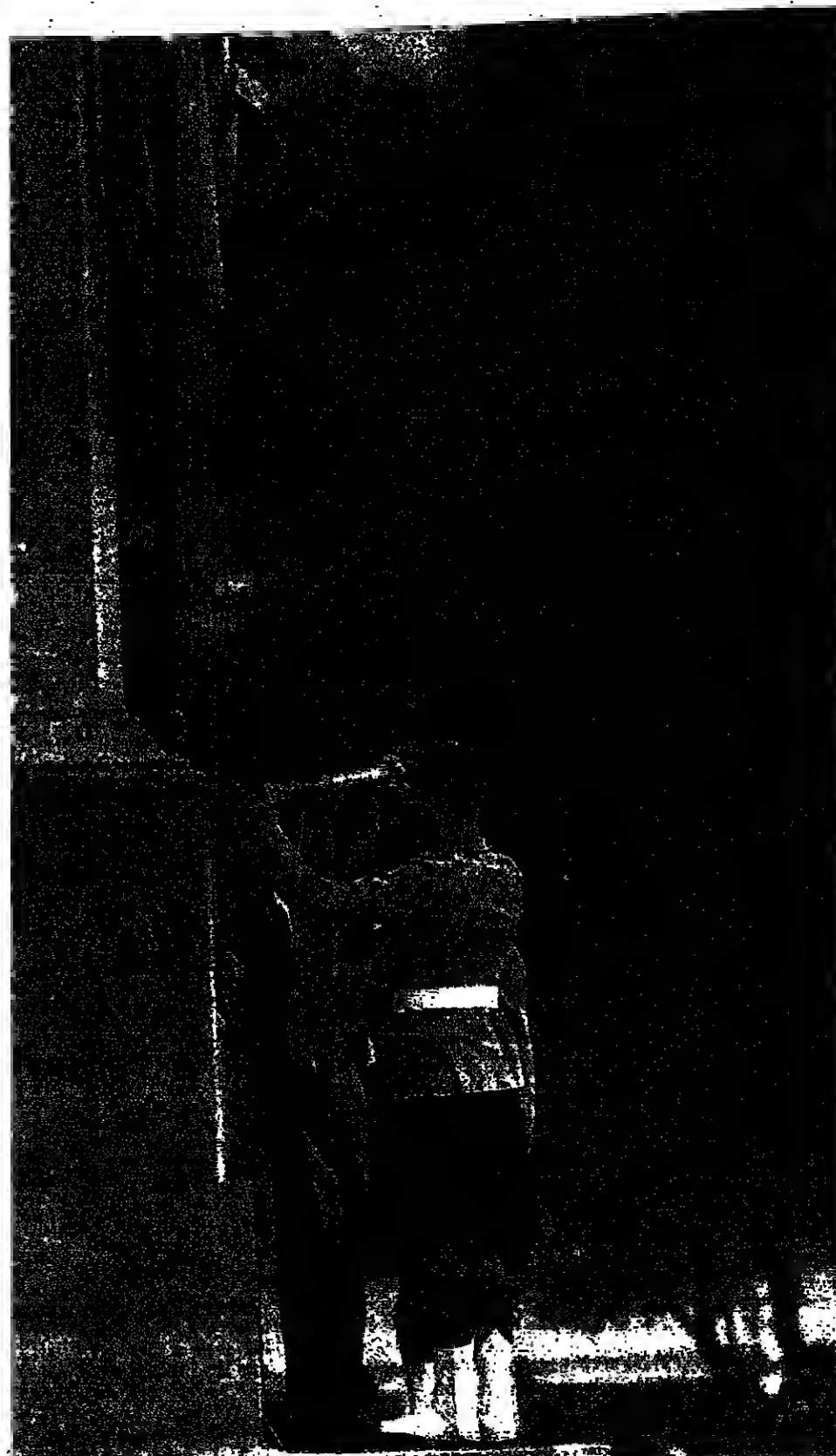
They are very geographically dispersed, with one group in the Caribbean, a scattering in the Atlantic, Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean and tiny Pitcairn Island in the Indian Ocean. Four (Gibraltar, Bermuda, the Falklands and the Cayman Islands) have representative offices in London. It is difficult to see how policymaking towards them can be anything but inconsistent.

The dependent territories all feel, to varying degrees, that they are misunderstood, neglected or misused by the Foreign Office, which administers them. "They don't always think when they're dealing with the DTs," says one source.

None the less, all resent the idea that they might be transferred to the new Ministry of International Development, seeing the FCO as a higher-profile home. "They would feel insulted" at a transfer, one source said.

All of them would like to have more of a voice in London, and especially with the Commonwealth. Though each is recognised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, which ties together the group's legislatures, none has any representation with the Commonwealth itself. The Government will be asked to press the case ahead of the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh in October. It is, as officials admit, a small point; but it is symptomatic of the neglect and ignorance from which the dependent territories feel they have suffered.

Tomorrow: Bermuda



Relics of rule: The days of lowering the Union Flag each morning in Hong Kong are numbered, but remaining territories are unlikely to part company with Britain. Photograph: Tom Pilton

Citizens left behind press for rule change

Andrew Marshall
David Osborne

Britain's remaining dependent territories will press for a relaxation of immigration rules once Hong Kong returns to the Chinese fold, senior officials have told *The Independent*.

Hong Kong is by far the largest of the remaining red specks on the map in population terms. When it is gone, what was once the world's largest empire will amount to 16 territories and about 200,000 people.

Destined to become the largest, in population terms, of Britain's remaining Dependent Territories after the handover of Hong Kong next month, Bermuda has served notice that it will press for a relaxation of the rules that force Bermudians into the "other countries," channel at

the Heathrow arrivals hall. "It's an irritant," said Pamela Gordon, the premier of Bermuda, in an interview with *The Independent*. She says she plans to raise a range of immigration issues with the Blair government following the Hong Kong transfer.

Any presentation to the Government will stop far short, however, of a request for full right of abode for Bermudians in the United Kingdom. Bermuda, a speck in the Atlantic, has no interest in such an arrangement if it would entail Britons gaining the equivalent right to settle without hindrance in Bermuda.

Other territories are also pressing for a change in the rules: they feel badly disadvantaged by the 1981 British Nationality Act. The population of St Helena, one of Britain's oldest colonies, feel they have been

made prisoners on their own island by the virtually worthless British Dependent Territories Citizen passports, issued mainly to prevent a flood of Hong Kong immigration to Britain.

But many of the territories want to press for a higher profile. Many feel hard done by the Foreign Office, which they call "thoughtless," and forgotten by the Government.

They are equally worried by suggestions that they may be transferred to Clare Short's Ministry for International Development. This would lack logic, they say, for those former colonies that are not aid recipients – the Falklands, Cayman Islands, Bermuda and Gibraltar. But more than that, they feel it would be a downgrading, and, according to an official from one, "a slap in the face."

Race-hate ads add a nasty new flavour to Canada poll

Hugh Winsor
Ottawa

A series of attack television advertisements from the west Canada based Reform Party, claiming that Quebec-born political leaders such as the Prime Minister, Jean Chrétien, cannot be trusted to deal with national unity, has injected a nasty note of ethnic prejudice into Canada's election campaign.

The television commercials, which feature unflattering photographs of Mr Chrétien, the Conservative Party Leader Jean Charest, the Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe and the Quebec Premier, Lucien Bouchard, began running on public and private networks on the weekend.

The tracking poll by Reuters-Zogby on Sunday showed support for Reform had grown from 16.9 to 19.3 per cent. The attempt to blame prominent Quebec-based politicians for Canada's problems of national unity because of their Frenchness marks the first time in a modern federal election campaign that any party has explicitly targeted Quebecers because of their ethnicity or their language.

The airing of the advertisements prompted a barrage of criticism of the Reform Party Leader, Preston Manning, for stirring up English-French tension to shore up his party's support in western Canada and to

attempt to snag rural voters in Ontario, the province which delivers one-third of the seats to the Canadian parliament and which is seen as a stronghold for Mr Chrétien and the Liberal Party.

The new, frontal attack on Quebecers appears to be a response to the recent surge in support for Mr Charest at the expense of Bloc Québécois, the branch of the Quebec separatist movement which runs candidates in federal elections.

"If anybody hates Quebec, and if anybody hates the French, or if you hate anybody at all, then go to the Reform Party, because they are the party of hate"

Mr Manning is counting on his Reform Party replacing the Bloc as the official opposition in parliament, a move that could be the stepping stone to power in the next election, four years away.

The Conservative revival, propelled by Mr Charest's performance, is threatening the Manning scenario in two counts. If the federalist Conservatives are seen to be doing

well in Quebec, this is likely to have an echo in English-speaking Canada, especially in Ontario. Secondly, if the Bloc Québécois appears to be fading, it is harder to argue that a tough anti-Quebec party, such as Reform, is needed to counteract it.

There are already some indications that the advertisements could backfire, by stressing the extremist image of the Reform Party, which it has been trying to play down.

One of Mr Charest's Con-

servative candidates in Ontario, Dennis Timbrell (who was formerly a senior minister in the Ontario provincial government), took up that theme on Sunday.

"If anybody hates Quebec, there's a party for them. It's called Reform. If they hate the French, there's a party for them. If you hate anybody, go to Reform because they're the party of hate."

The Prime Minister is also attempting to confront Mr Manning directly on the issue and will be spending the next two days in Alberta and British Columbia, where the Reform Party has most support.

significant shorts

Sierra Leone coup force hunts down ex-ministers

Troops in Sierra Leone's capital searched houses looking for ministers of the former civilian government yesterday, a day after a military council seized power. Military sources said five former ministers were detained at the military headquarters. South Africa joined the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in condemning Sunday's coup, which put an end to just over a year of civilian rule.

The coup leaders, led by Major Johnny Paul Koromah said they wanted to bring rebels of the Revolutionary United Front into the government to consolidate an elusive peace in the civil war. Reuters - Freetown

Kabila bans rivals' rallies

President Laurent Kabila's administration banned all activities of political parties and public demonstrations in the capital of Zaire, Kinshasa, until further notice, citing a need to ensure security.

The crackdown followed a weekend decision by the veteran opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi to stage fresh protest marches in the city tomorrow and Friday.

US officials in Paris said that the Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, is to send the UN ambassador Bill Richardson for the first senior-level US talks with Mr Kabila since the former rebel took power in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He will push for a broad-based government that would pursue economic and political reforms. Reuters - Kinshasa

Churches condemn burning

Religious leaders denounced a weekend arson attack on a Lübeck church by right-wing extremists and vowed it would not influence their campaign to uphold the rights of asylum-seekers in Germany. Suspected neo-Nazis daubed swastikas on the facade of St Vicelin Church and started a fire which spread to the church early on Sunday. They also scrawled the name of a local priest whose parish is sheltering a family of asylum-seekers to prevent their deportation to Algeria. Reuters - Bonn

Louvre reopens after strike

The Louvre museum reopened yesterday after striking guards ended a five-day blockade in exchange for a promise of talks with the management over their grievances. Reuters - Paris

Clinton recalls war sacrifice

President Bill Clinton led a Memorial Day tribute to the nation's war dead and warned that the United States must meet its responsibilities to avoid mistakes that led to past wars. Using the backdrop of white tombstones that fill Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, he set the stage for his trip to Europe this week, designed to deal with a post-Cold War Europe. Reuters - Washington

Vet keeps his mouth shut

An Indian vet on a hunger strike in protest against unemployment yesterday stitched his lips together to avoid being forcibly fed, the Press Trust of India said. The news agency said Partha Pratim Kar, on strike for 17 days, had been without a job since he completed his training in 1991 in the northeastern state of Tripura. Reuters - New Delhi

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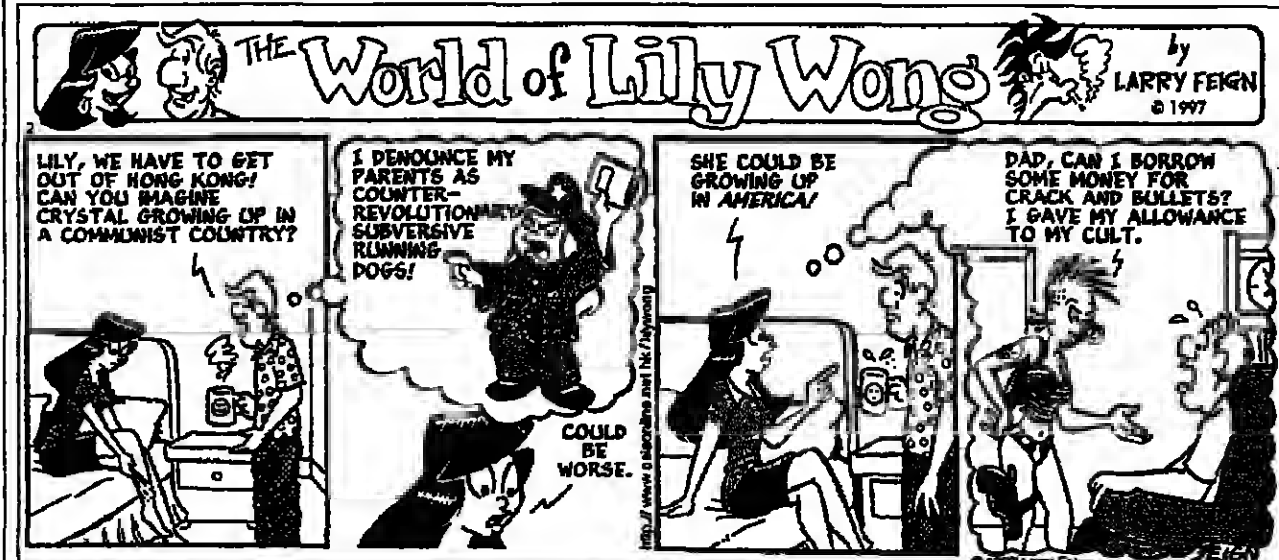
According to this book, we all vastly under-estimate the extent to which the nutrients in our foods are needed to keep us alive, well, happy and healthy. The author discusses the fact that a deficiency in B vitamins can cause mood swings and bouts of the blues. She talks about the role played by chromium in a healthy metabolism and gives an inspiring explanation of antioxidants - nutrients which fight off 'free radicals' - recently found by scientists to be the major cause of the ageing process and disease... and much, much more.

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مجلس من الشورى

Europe must listen to the French electorate

Genuine Europhiles will take heart from the French election result for the good and simple reason that co-operation and integration will not work unless they are based on popular endorsement expressed periodically by national electorates. No agreement, no extra measures of integration. Genuine Europhiles do not hang on every communiqué issued from summits in Brussels or Dutch seaside resorts. Instead, the Europe of their imagining is a popular edifice, built – necessarily gradually – on the assent of the inhabitants of this and other member countries to empirical measures to liberalise trade and movement while moving towards common-sense harmonisation of standards in tax as in employment. It cannot be a rush job.

Sunday's result in France is ambiguous in all sorts of ways but clear in this respect – a large number of French men and women are unhappy both with the prospect of a single currency and the way it is being prepared for. A pause for further thought would now be welcome, especially if it were accompanied by measures to alleviate the national sore of youth joblessness. (No one should pretend that that is going to be easy: French unemployment has as much to do with state social costs as deflation for the sake of joining the single currency.) Nonetheless, if Lionel Jospin forms a government after next weekend's runoff, he will be committed to a major

change of focus in negotiations over EMU. That may scupper the project as conceived by Chancellor Kohl and the Germans. The socialists' advance should thus emphasise the wisdom of Tony Blair's warning at the Noordwijk summit last week – that there has to be more focus on "the issues that matter to the people".

There should be no mistaking the radicalism of that frame of reference. There is no popular backing for a common currency in France; German misgivings are suppressed only by the suffocating hold Chancellor Kohl has on Bonn politics. Meanwhile, if the people not just of this country but of the other member states were directly consulted, scant evidence of support would be found for much of the treaty on further integration which Mr Blair, Kohl and the rest were in Holland to start negotiating. Maas-tricht II, as it is dubbed, is for the most part neither necessary nor wished for. Given the stance taken by the British government and the desire among other leaders to palliate Mr Blair, it now looks as if the new treaty will be a minimalist document. It will be all the better for that. Go through the clauses and mark them in terms of popular will.

Some do attract support. Under the Social Chapter, there is a balance to be struck between British labour market liberalism and Continental controls. Labour is right to make a sticking point of the national border. There

clearly is a difference of view, as there should be, between this country and, say, the Dutch, Belgians and other Schengen countries (though the coherence of that group has yet to survive the accession of the Greeks) which suggests this issue should not become Euro-law. Far better to let co-operation develop piecemeal, as for example in the joint passport and customs control regime now in operation on Eurostar.

There is, without a doubt, an enervating gap between popular sentiment and the institutions of European union – a gap which the European Parliament might eventually but certainly has not

yet begun to fill. It is a gap deepened whenever ministers and presidents and chancellors attend summits but fail to return full of explanation – to report back on the benefits of Europrojects. Enthusiasts for closer European co-operation often quite rightly bemoan the absence of advocacy of the benefits of membership, as when Cornish fishermen drive to protest meetings along roads partly paid for by the European regional budget. That advocacy ought also to take the form of explanation.

This is what has gone missing in France. Jacques Delors now says – in order to keep his socialist colleagues on

the straight and narrow – that the common currency plan was always intended to be about social justice; that an "economic government", ie political control, was always meant to be built into the operations of the European central bank. But he has done a remarkably poor job in keeping his fellow citizens up to speed, and convincing them that French deflation really is a price worth paying.

The reason he has not done so is because the single currency has, hitherto, been a scheme of political and economic elites whose arguments are to some extent based on unproven theories. In Sarcelles and other benighted suburbs of French cities, they need more convincing. If M Jospin cannot manage, he should pull out.

As they contemplate this French result, Messrs Blair and Cook should draw two lessons. One – as if they needed it, given results in Putney and elsewhere a month ago – is the utter irrelevance of organised or ideological Euro-scepticism. The French electorate may be confused but it is in no identifiable sense anti-Europe. But what manner of Europe? The British leaders should hold hard to their expressed intent of fashioning European institutions that speak to people's lives and interests and sentiments. It would be boastful for the British to claim that the landscape of European politics has changed with the advent here of Labour. Yet even a cursory comparison

between what Mr Blair brings to the party and what M Jospin or indeed the putative substitutes for Herr Kohl such as Gerhard Schröder have to offer is telling. When Labour talks about offering Europe new leadership, it is not because they have some kind of future map – such historicist pretensions have no place. The leadership Europe needs is one that understands and communicates with the people of Europe.

Time to pardon wronged soldiers

There can be no statute of limitations on seeking to right a past wrong, especially one that involves the Government, which has the capacity to change its official mind. All the evidence suggests that during the First World War, numbers of British soldiers were wrongly convicted and executed for alleged desertion from the front. Some people might think, given the nature of that war, that desertion was no ignoble act. But the campaigners' point is that British military tribunals erred and official records need to be amended. The new government should respond warmly to requests to re-examine the files. It should, however, proceed on a case-by-case basis, since any blanket issuing of pardons might in itself perpetrate an injustice.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Human rights: beware the Kiwi model

Sir: You report (23 May) that the Conservative Party has dropped its opposition to the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights. This is very good news. For the first time we will have positive rights to privacy and fair trial, freedoms of expression, religion and assembly. However, the real test of the commitment of the new parliament will be whether it is prepared to allow the courts to give a higher status to the convention than other legislation.

The Canadians have managed to develop devices that preserve the sovereignty of their parliament whilst also giving rights the importance they deserve within the constitution. The alternative model being discussed comes from New Zealand, which remains inadequate. In New Zealand, where there is a conflict between rights and statute, statute prevails. In this country, this would mean that the individual who was able to show to the satisfaction of the domestic court that his or her convention rights had been violated would nevertheless lose the case. The "loser" would then still have to petition the commission in Strasbourg for redress.

The Labour Party's consultation paper, published in December, proposes that Parliament would be expected to change the law in any case where the domestic courts had found that the primary legislation did not comply with the convention. Unfortunately if it did not do so the domestic courts would be powerless to do anything other than to remind Parliament every time a similar case came along.

The danger with this approach is of course, that if a case concerned an unpopular group of people, such as suspected terrorists, travellers or protesters, or was controversial in some other way, as many human rights cases are, then Parliament might never get round to changing the law. The law would then be in a mess, with the courts finding resolutions and Parliament taking no action to remedy the situation. Finally, after another five or so years the "loser" might succeed in Strasbourg, obliging the Government then to make the necessary reforms.

JOHN WADHAM
Director, Liberty
London SE1

Father's fight against abortion

Sir: Abortion is a thorny subject; but I was stung by your report (23 May) about the Kells from Dr. Patrick Wynn. Dr. Wynn states that "an interpretation in favour of fathers would be tantamount to treating pregnant women as mere receptacles for child-bearing". Would not an interpretation in favour of the wife be tantamount to treating fathers as sperm donors? So much is expected of the New Man – that he be involved in the pregnancy, in the nurturing of the new baby – is it unreasonable to expect that he might want a degree of involvement in the death sentence too? Would a we heard this particular father an uncaring monster if he simply stood aside and said, "Yes, let it die"? I sympathise with the powerlessness he must feel.



ABORTION - A MAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

I am a happy mother who would hate to live in a country where abortion was not available to women in need – but I cannot justify the use of abortion as a means of birth control. Mrs Kelly insists that no one can force her to have a child. Did anyone force her to conceive it?

WILNA WHITE
Barton-le-Clay, Bedfordshire

West must rein Turkey in

Sir: The UN Secretary-General is right to point out that Turkey's invasion of Iraq is a transgression of Iraq's territorial integrity ("Turks ignore UN's mercy call for Kurds", 19 May) and contrary to the United Nations Charter. The invasion also adds further instability in the region. It was an illegal act and western governments should be demanding Turkey's immediate withdrawal.

Your correspondent also refers to a call to arms from the PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, and quotes him calling on his people to fight. This is hardly surprising given Turkey's blatant aggression, its denial of basic human rights to the Kurds, the destruction of homes and villages, and murder of civilians including women and children.

However, Mr Ocalan has said that he is not demanding secession from Turkey or changes in recognised national boundaries. He offered a ceasefire under international supervision in return for talks with Turkey without any other preconditions.

The ball is in Turkey's court, but western governments must ensure that Turkey accepts this offer. If

gentle persuasion does not succeed, then they should end all political and military aid to Turkey forthwith. This duty war of genocide against the Kurds has got to stop.

JOHN AUSTIN MP
(Eritrean and Thamesmead, Lab)
House of Commons
London SW1

Life after ban on tobacco cash

Sir: Australia has recent experience with a government ban on tobacco sponsorship of sporting and cultural events (Letters, 22, 24 May). As is now occurring in Britain, many sporting groups feared that the bans would devastate their sports. They argued that because tobacco companies were excluded from print, broadcast, cinema and outdoor advertising, they had open chequebooks to sponsor sport to levels way beyond the rate set by companies who had the choice of using these other advertising media.

However, the post-ban situation is salutary. The 13-year Rothmans sponsorship of Rugby League ended in 1995, with Rothmans spending A\$5m in cash in addition to paying for promotions. In 1996, this was replaced with A\$5m from a telecommunications company (Optus), with a promise of A\$8m per year until a A\$40m package has been achieved. In addition, Qantas paid A\$4m for naming rights to the finals series.

Asnet airlines replaced Benson.

& Hedges sponsorship of the cricket season. Apart from Australia's 3-0 loss to England, there are no signs that the health of Australian cricket has suffered.

The TV, radio, cinema, billboard and publishing industries have all survived tobacco advertising bans. The Australian experience shows that sport can, too.

Associate Professor SIMON CHAPMAN
Chair, Action on Smoking and Health
Woolloomooloo, New South Wales

Sir: Clive Turner of the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association (Letter, 24 May) refuses to talk about addiction and talks instead of choice and pleasure. I made a single choice when I was 14 or 15 which has committed me to a daily expenditure at current prices of about £7 and damage to my health and the health of my family. I have frequently made the choice to stop smoking, but I'm not up to it.

JON GRAY
Bath

Sir: The main reason why sports should not accept tobacco sponsorship is the one least mentioned by anyone – the effect of smoking on athletic performance. As the Army found out many years ago, compared to non-smokers, smoking soldiers are slow soldiers.

DONALD REID
Chief Executive
Association for Public Health
London WC1

Spread the green revolution

Sir: Lord Rogers' maiden speech setting out his vision for an urban revolution (report, 21 May) is to be welcomed, and I hope he gets the support necessary to make it happen.

However, I have reservations about the way the debate seems to be centring on London. It seems sad that Professor Smith, the chairman of a national organisation, in writing a letter to a national newspaper (Letters, 24 May), can think of no examples to quote from outside central London.

Compared with most other major British cities and to the largely dull and dreary London suburbs, central London is already a remarkably green and attractive place. By all means let us have an urban revolution, but let it be a far-reaching national revolution, not just a showcase in central London.

CHRIS WOOD
Reading, Berkshire

Finder of the massacre files

Sir: The statement in your article "Jews massacred in Holocaust test-run" (20 May) that my "discovery of parallel files in the American archives forced the British disclosure" of the wartime British

transcripts of the German police and SS radio traffic needs to be corrected.

The American holdings of three files of the decrypts were released to public inspection as a result of the efforts of a friend and colleague, Professor Richard Breitman of the American University in Washington DC, under the auspices of the American Freedom of Information Act.

Dr JOHN P FOX
Lecturer in Jewish History and Holocaust Studies
Jews' College
London NW4

When it's bad to talk

Sir: The argument (leading article, 24 May) that using a mobile phone in a car is no more of a distraction than talking to a passenger or entertaining a child is spurious.

A passenger is aware of the road conditions that the driver is dealing with. In potentially hazardous situations he or she will usually have the sense to shut up. A child can be told that Mum or Dad is too busy to talk just now. Telephone callers are not aware of the traffic conditions, and it is not so easy for the driver to request them to shut up, particularly if they are senior colleagues or customers. That is why hands-off phones, though preferable to the hand-held variety, are still a distraction that should not be used while driving.

MICHAEL PRICE
Twyford, Berkshire

Ministry slips on apple skin

Sir: For some time now I have been washing fruit before feeding it to my seven-year-old son, believing that this would remove the pesticide residue on the skin. I had heard that the Ministry of Agriculture suggest this as a precaution.

Sparked by recent reports of pesticide levels six times above the recommended minimum being found in apples, I rang the ministry to check that I was washing thoroughly enough. The young press officer was vague: "Well, you just run them under the tap, give them a rinse." Irritated by his casualness I pushed further, demanding to know exactly how thoroughly to wash the fruit and on what basis of research it was shown that this would have an effect. "I'll have to get back to you," he said.

Two days later came back the reply: "Sorry, it makes no difference whatsoever. You can't wash pesticide off fruit because it is absorbed into the skin. Peeling is the only solution." I was shocked, as I'm sure many other parents will be, and felt misled by the ministry's advice to wash fruit.

Pesticides are tasteless – that's the fundamental problem. With North Sea Gas, which is odourless, they add a compound so that you can smell it if there's a leak. Surely we could do the same with pesticides, so that above a certain residue level you could taste the stuff. The consumers would then regulate the industry more effectively and cheaply than any government department could ever do.

PIERS PARTRIDGE
Bristol

Sir: Improved emissions standards and the closure of dirty incinerators have reduced dioxin output from waste incineration, but despite the assertions of the director of the Energy from Waste Association (Letter, 26 May) it still remains one of the larger sources of dioxin (HMIP 1995 report). Indeed, the higher emissions standards now in operation are being used as a justification for escalating the quantities of waste incinerated.

Incineration, no matter how technically efficient, will increase human exposure to these poisons, but there are simple and safe alternatives, such as waste reduction, recycling, composting and anaerobic digestion.

Dioxins and PCBs are found everywhere. They are fat-soluble and they concentrate up the food chain. For those who wish to limit their exposure, a reduced consumption of fats and animal products and more plant-based foods will help.

MARTIN HUGHES-JONES
far South-west Green Party
Sampford Peverell, Devon

Japanese flush

Sir: On a recent visit to Japan I was impressed by their ingenious way of not wasting water in the lavatory.

Their cistern is not directly behind the lavatory, but at one side. It is triangular. Its top is a neat, three-cornered hand basin without a plug above which is the water pipe. When you flush the lavatory, water flows via the hand basin, in which you are washing your hands, to fill the cistern. One single quantity of water washes hands and flushes the lavatory. Simplicity itself, and a huge saving.

MARJORIE HEATH
Diss, Norfolk

threw himself under a goods train. The production had enjoyed a big success last winter at Peter Brook's theatre Les Bouffes du Nord, a success largely due to Amstutz's performances - dry, sardonic, gruff - as the father of the leading actress Emmanuelle Béart, with Pascal Gregory in the other main role in the cast of six.

Like Aurignac (who had done a seven-year stretch for armed robbery before being rehabilitated by theatre and film work), Amstutz was a man beset by personal anxieties, by inner anguish that gave his acting a fine nervous intensity. He used that repressed emotional

In 1952 Mulhare was part of the John Gielgud season at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, and with Gielgud he subsequently toured the Rhodes Festival at Bulawayo, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), in *Richard II*. In 1953 he made his film debut in Thorold Dickinson's Israeli-made film *Hill 24 Doesn't Answer*. In this potent drama of the fight for modern Israel, he was top-billed as one of four soldiers defending a hill outside Jerusalem in the 1948 war. The same year he had a featured role as Sidney Willis MP in the West End production of *The Night of the Ball* with Gladys Cooper and Wendy Hiller.

A turning-point in his career came in 1957, when he was chosen to succeed Rex Harrison in the Broadway production of *My Fair Lady*. With his suave urbane and clipped British accent, he proved a popular successor and played the role for three years, his Elizes including Julie Andrews, Sally Ann Howes and Anne Rogers. When Rex Harrison saw the show for the first time as a member of the audience, he found Mulhare "very good." I was enchanted with the whole performance.

In 1960 he went with the show to Russia then decided to settle in the US, where he found steady employment on stage, screen and television. On Broadway he starred in *The Devil's Advocate* (1961) and succeeded Michael Wilding in Jean Kerr's hit comedy *Mary, Mary* (1961). Later he starred in a Los Angeles production of *The Sound of Music*, and with Anne Rogers, who had become one of his closest friends, he toured the States in the musical *Camelot* and play *Death Trap* as well as revivals of *My Fair Lady*. In the early Seventies he toured 159 American cities in a production of Shaw's *Don Juan in Hell* with Myrna Loy, Ricardo Montalban and Kurt Kasznar. "Edward Mulhare made a superb *Devil*," said Loy.

1789 and the spectacular *Méphisto* (1979), based on a story by Klaus Mann.

After that, he set out on an independent course, in which he often suffered hardship and solitude, though he became attached to Patrice Chéreau's experiments at the Théâtre des Amandiers in Nanterre from 1981. He appeared as the Gravedigger in Jean's *Hamlet* (1982), in Jean-Hugues Anglade's *Great Britain* (1983) and in Chekhov's *Ivanov* in his same year.

His work ranged from Schnitzler's *Terre Étrangère* to Tilly's *Charcuterie fine*, from Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* (Chéreau, 1981) to Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*.

Before the opening in Paris of Strindberg's play (whose French title is *Jour avec le feu*) in December 1996, the director, Joël Bonamy, gave an illuminating interview in which he talked about Strindberg and Anstutz and suggested they were similar human beings. He called the playwright a "tormented genius" whose aim in the theatre was to strip bare the nervous systems of the players and expose them to the public. This kind of exposure was the basis of his own direction of the

Perhaps some of that demonic spirit had imposed itself from the beyond upon the actors too. The Swiss have a kind of fatalism. They call it *der williger Tod*, or "death by one's own free will" — much more expressive than the abstract *mors volontaire* ("voluntary death") of the French. Roland Amstutz was a man whose intelligence shone through all his life and work. It was by his own free will that he ended it. The play did not go on.

James Kirking
Roland Amstutz, actor born La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, 1942; died Recklinghausen, Germany 20 May 1997.

James Kirkup

Roland Amstutz, actor: born La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland 1942; died Recklinghausen, Germany 20 May 1997.



His prolific television work started in England with two episodes of *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1956). American series in which he appeared included *Murder She Wrote*, *Streets of San Francisco*, *Outer Limits*, *Hart To Hart*, *Battlestar Galactica*, and regular roles in two further series, both of which became hits.

When the 1941 film *The Ghost and Mrs Muir* was converted to a television series in 1968, Mulhare again followed in Harrison's footsteps as the ghost of an irascible sea captain

fight injustice. With particular appeal to young audiences, it was the first show on the NBC network to hold its own against *Dallas* on CBS, and ran for five years and 90 episodes.

Mulhare continued to act until diagnosed with cancer a few months ago, and has a role in the forthcoming Jack Lemmon/Walter Matthau film *Out to Sea*.

Tom Yallance

Edward Mulhare, actor: born Cork, Ireland 8 April 1923; died Los Angeles 24 May 1997.

Tom Vallance

Edward Mulhare, actor, born Cork, Ireland 8 April 1923; died Los Angeles 24 May 1997.

walked with his lodge to the "field". Such tolerant scenes were common in the days before Sinn Féin dominated the parades issue.

After school at Stowe he went straight into the family firm with a *Winners' Company* scholarship which took him to Oporto and Bordeaux, where he acquired fluent local French and a formidable knowledge of the wine trade. In Germany, when war broke out in 1939, he joined the Royal Artillery, the 8th Anti-Aircraft Regiment, serving briefly in France before the Dunkirk withdrawal, then in the air defence of Coventry and London before ending up in

Kinahan's first entry into politics was as a councillor for Oldpark Belfast, where in 1948 he defeated the Labour activist Billy (later Lord) Bleasdale. He served in the Belfast Corporation for 10 years before becoming a Sturmont MP for Clifton. His opponent was a hardline Protestant but with the help of both Jewish and Catholic electors he scraped home by 45 votes and five recounts. His career at Stormont lasted only a few months. He saw his chance of becoming



Kinahan; open-minded
E.T. Green (millers) to Abbey

pany commitments Kinahan was an efficient chairman. Business was quickly dispatched. Everyone had to have done his homework. He loved commerce and once said: "It's not just the money. I can't altogether dismiss ambition. There is a special satisfaction in getting to the top."

He achieved that ambition and combined it with a large involvement in charity work when his appointment as Lord-Lieutenant of Belfast during 1985-91 set the final crown on his civic career.

His wife and he published a joint autobiography with the cheeky rhetorical title *Behind*

the new President was dangerously unaware of the realities of international relations. In July 1975 he denounced the growing Franco-German alliance, claiming that Germany remained a danger to France.

He entered politics, both in the municipal elections in Nice (where he was living) and in the legislative elections of 1978. He stood, with others, as a member of the Union of Progressive Gaulists. But he was unsuccessful and in 1981 supported Mitterrand against Giscard. His actions in 1975 had caused him to be removed from the reserve. He was restored in 1983.

Douglas Johnson

Douglas Johnson

François Binoche, soldier: born Paris 23 March 1911; died Paris 18 May 1907.

evacuations of the northern outpost of Cao Bang and the fall of Langson. He claimed that every mistake had been made.

Birthdays

Dr Eric Anderson, Rector, Lincoln College, Oxford, 0; The Right Rev Simon Barrington-Ward, Bishop of Coventry, 67; Professor John Barth, author, 67; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Basil Bagnall, former First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, 67; Mr Jeffrey Bernard, journalist, 65; Miss Clara Black, singer, 55; The Right Rev Hugh Boyd, Roman Catholic Bishop of Plymouth, 60; Earl Cairns, chairman, BAT Industries, 58; Mr Pat Cairns, tennis player, 53; Field Marshal Lord Gort, 60; Major General Sir Colman, 66; Sir Anthony Colman, High Court judge, 59; Mr John Connell, boxer, 46; Mr Bryan Cowgill, former deputy chairman, Mirror Group, 70; Lord Eroll of Ldale, former government minister, 61; Mr Paul Gascogne, footballer, 39; Mr Duncan Goodhew, swimmer, 40; Mr Norman Griegs, former vice

dropsy, 1774; Sir Henry Parkes, statesman, 1815; Amelia Jenks, educator, 1869; a night campfire, 1878; Julia Ward Howe, poet, 1878; John W. Alden, statesman reformer, 1881; Joseph Joachim Raff, composer, 1822; Jay Gould, railway builder, 1836; James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok, frontier scout, 1837; Enoch Arden Bennett, 1837; Georges-Henri Rostaing, painter, 1870; George Eastman, photographer, 1854; Hans Christian Andersen, dancer, 1878; Samuel Dashfield Hammett, detective-story writer, 1894; Sir John Douglas Cockcroft, physicist, 1897; Hubert Horatio Humphrey, US Vice-President, 1911; Vincent Leonard Price, actor and director, 1929; William F. Buckley Jr., Analyst-politician, executed, 1925; John Calvin, theologian, 1564; Archibald Campbell, Marquess of Argyle, soldier, beheaded, 1661; Nicolo Paganini, violinist, 1840; Joseph Bosworth, lexicographer, 1840.

the stratosphere, reaching a height of 51,000 feet in a balloon, 1931; the European Defence Community was set up, 1955. Today is the Feast Day of St. Augustine of Canterbury, St. Eutropius of Orange, St. Julius of Dorostorum, St. Melange of Manacello and St. Resiciuta of Sora.

Lectures

National Gallery: Lizzy Barker, "My Marriages (4): Rembrandt's *Woman*". 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Sarah Searight, "Garden of Paradise: Floral themes in Iranian Art I", 2.30pm.

Tate Gallery: Sarah Cow, "Materials and Techniques of Tudor and Jacobean Pottery". 1.30pm.

British Museum: Paul Craddock, "The Origins of West African Bronzes: the Igbo Ukwu bronzes and the case for their local origin".

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen Mother attends a Reception given by the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association in St James's Palace, London, on Monday. Her Majesty's Privy, Tetrby, Gloucester and the Princess Royal, Patron, the National Autistic Society, open Struan House School's annual, Alice, Clackmannanshire, opens the Spar International Conference, Glenageary Hall, Glenageary, Perthshire; as Patron, the Butler Trust, gives Common Law Female Prison, Striving, as President, with Knit and Clothing Export Council, visit Remploy Ltd, Canewyhead, Striving.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard in the Palace of Westminster, as Scots Guards mount the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am; band provided by the Irish Guards.

THE LAW REPORT resumes with the

The LAW REPORT resumes with the Law Term on Tuesday 3 June.

Mrs Justice Hale, in the Family Division Liaison Judge for London.

هذه من الاصل

litigation and a warning profits it would be little changed have done the damage. Last year's figure was £170.7m; a dip to £170m with a modest dividend increase to 13.2p is the likely outcome.

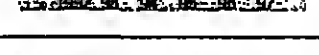
Stock market reporter of the year

dividend tax credit would not only alter the current yield on the market but probably also reduce future dividend growth. New Labour may be gilt friend-

panies or discriminates against dividends then there must be a distinct possibility the NatWest hulls will surrender some of their enthusiasm.

As a stand-alone company Thorn has been a disappointment with its shares crashing

is engineer Siebe. Its latest major takeover, APV, has still to be cemented. Profits up around 30 per cent to £420m will again look impressive. But



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JOHN PHILPOTT

'Ministers must quickly demonstrate why and how their plans will prove more effective at getting young people and the long-term unemployed into jobs, and thus reduce the benefit bill, than those of their Conservative predecessors'

Will Labour's Welfare to Work really work?

Of course the Labour Government will create lots of jobs," a wag remarked the other day. "Judging by the number of taskforces, committees and commissions being established by Mr Blair and Co to advise on different aspects of policy the market for the Great and the Good must be overheating already." Cynicism indeed. Yet the observation conceals a more serious question. Will New Labour's policy activism really make a difference to the plight of Britain's jobless?

There is no doubting the Government's commitment to tackling unemployment as evidenced by the sheer scale of its proposed New Deal which will absorb £3bn of extra public spending financed from the windfall levy. The guarantee of a job or training opportunity to under 25s who have been unemployed and on benefit for more than six months plus all others unemployed for more than two years when operational extend to some 400,000 people. The mood in Whitehall as ministers and officials prepare their Welfare to Work Budget offers a refreshing change from the stale reticence of recent years. But commitment is not enough. The phrase that hangs over so many of the fledgling administration's policy proposals at present is "the devil is in the detail". Opposition by soundbite was effective: Government requires something more solid. In particular, ministers must quickly demonstrate why and how their plans will prove more effective at getting young people and the long-term unemployed into jobs, and thus reduce the benefit bill, than those of their Conservative predecessors.

On the face of things the Government's menu of measures – temporary tax rebates to employers who hire and train the young and long-term jobless, short-term environmental and community jobs etc – looks like the standard fare of active labour market poli-

cies the world over – highly worthwhile but not always and everywhere successful in cutting the dole queues. So how successful is the Government likely to be in turning its rhetoric on jobs into reality? The Government seems set to score well on two counts.

First, macroeconomic conditions are favourable to the Welfare to Work strategy, with continuing recovery in the labour market reducing the number of benefit claimants. All too often major jobs programmes are introduced as an emergency measure in times of recession and then fall flat because demand for labour is weak. The recent experience of several continental EU countries, not least France where supply side measures have struggled in the face of inappropriate macroeconomic policy, is telling in this respect. Second, the Government is right to opt for guaranteed provision for all jobless people in the targeted groups. This kind of approach seems to result in more unemployed people coming off benefit of their own volition rather than waiting for the job guarantee to come into effect (perhaps, as in the Government's proposals for the under 25s,

because the guarantee effectively replaces the right to benefit).

Matters become less certain when one turns to the specific elements of the Welfare to Work plan. The tax rebate proposal will take centre stage because it is thought to be more cost effective. Unlike measures that create environmental or community jobs the Exchequer merely has to fund a payment to employers – £60 per week for six months for the young jobless, £75 for the two-year plus unemployed – rather than the full cost of supporting a person in work. Moreover, training-related job placements with employers at normal rates of pay offer jobless people better work experience and improve their chances of moving off welfare long-term.

In practice the rebate might support jobs that would exist without it (the so-called "deadweight" effect) or displace other jobs, thereby reducing the impact of the rebate and increasing the net cost. Of these deadweight is likely to prove the most problematic – international experience suggests deadweight typically accounts for around half of jobs supported in this way. Displacement

is of less economic significance. Assuming that displaced workers are inherently employable their entry to the unemployment pool should cause the labour market to adjust to re-absorb them into jobs.

The design and precise operation of the rebate will be crucial to reducing these unsavoury side effects. However, attaching strings to the rebate will almost certainly reduce take-up, an outcome that will be exacerbated if employers also find that the long-term jobless are not well prepared to hold down jobs. Similarly, as Dan Finn points out in a recent study of Australian jobs programmes published by the Unemployment Unit, in relation to the very long-term jobless tax rebates should be the last stage in a sequence of support designed to prepare individuals to cope with a return to work.

Taking these factors into account the Government could find it has to rely more than it anticipates on temporary environmental or community work schemes in order to meet its Welfare to Work guarantee. In this respect the Government's most significant jobs proposal could turn out to be Neighbourhood Match, a vehicle for testing so-called Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) models of employment and training delivery.

ILM initiatives, normally run by highly entrepreneurial not-for-profit organisations, link temporary jobs and training to community regeneration or the provision of services to deprived local communities. ILMs are intermediate first in the sense that they build a bridge between long-term unemployment and work and second in that they fill gaps in service provision not met by private or public sector enterprises. ILMs normally create job opportunities, paid at the rate for the job, by combining benefit income with other resources such as local authority grants. The various projects run by the Glasgow-based Wise Group are perhaps the

best-known examples of ILM initiatives, the evaluated success rates of which look good in comparison with other publicly funded job and training schemes (see table and note that the Wise Group's job entry rate has risen above 50 per cent since these figures were compiled). The Wise Group results are superior to those of Training for Work in Glasgow although similar to Training for Work in England and Wales. But the latter recruits a much lower proportion of people who have been unemployed for more than a year.

So far so good. But Treasury officials cast a wary eye at the Wise Group – at around £14,000 per job per year the group's operation looks very expensive by the standards of conventional government-funded programmes.

This crude perspective, however, is short-sighted. When one accounts for the savings that accrue from the Wise Group's superior performance in helping its participants enter jobs, the group appears to offer a good value, if not necessarily free, lunch to the taxpayer. And when one accounts for the valuable social outputs and reduced social costs that flow from the Wise Group's activities the rate of return to the ILM looks more attractive still.

The Government has much to learn as it moves along the Welfare to Work learning curve. The key to success lies in recognising the limits of jobs programmes as well as their potential. Implemented with care and sufficient resources the Government's programmes could work wonders for the jobless. But don't expect them to work miracles.

Dan Finn, 'Working Nation: Welfare Reform and the Australian Job Compact for the Long-Term Unemployed', Unemployment Unit.

John Philpott is director of the Employment Policy Institute, an independent think-tank.

| Wise Group and Training for Work trainees | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Unemployed for more than 1 year | Unemployed for more than 2 years | Unemployed for more than 3 years |
| Wise Group | 51 | 46 | 46 |
| Training for Work | 47 | 25 | 25 |
| Training for Work (England & Wales) | 43 | 42 | 42 |

Source: Dan Finn, 'Working Nation: Welfare Reform and the Australian Job Compact for the Long-Term Unemployed', Unemployment Unit.

Adtranz wins £150m order from Connex Industry backs PFI plan

Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

Adtranz, the Derby-based train manufacturer, has been chosen as the preferred bidder to supply 30 new trains to a private commuter train service in a deal worth £150m. The order is for 30 four-car trains for Connex South Eastern, the French-owned company which runs commuter services from London to Kent.

The deal is another fillip for the tramway, which last week finalised a £38m order for 13 units from Midland Mainline, a division of National Express. According to industry sources Adtranz beat off stiff competition from GEC Alsthom Metro-Cammell but clinched the deal with lower maintenance costs.

This order will mean that 16 trains will have to be in service by April 1999, which leaves little time for the carriages to pass Railtrack's stringent safety tests. Although the privatised rail industry has been quick to trumpet new orders, it has been quiet about the lack of completed deals.

Despite a rash of announcements by owners, the deals have produced only 47 new units. Of these, 30 units were the price extracted by competition authorities from Stagecoach in order to purchase Porterbrook, one of the three train leasing companies.

Separately, Eurotunnel has come under attack from the rail industry for "seriously hampering" the growth of container traffic under the Channel with its "excessive charges". Lord Berkeley, the Labour peer who chairs the Rail Freight Group, complained in a letter to John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, that rather than using the railway freight link "it would be cheaper to unload a freight train from Glasgow at Ashford, put the containers on a lorry... and take them across to Calais and load them back onto a train".

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry has strongly backed the Government's plans to review and reform the much-criticised private finance initiative, a move which brings the policy agenda at the employers' organisation even closer to Labour.

In its response to the Government's 12-point plan to shake up the PFI, the CBI backed calls for the abolition of universal testing for state projects to assess their compatibility with the initiative, a Conservative policy widely blamed for delays to high-profile investment projects.

The CBI also supported suggestions that it would have a formal consultative role with the Treasury through joint working parties, a development it said would help to build consensus with the private sector.

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patience
nty at sixes
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time I've ridden five," McCoy said. He moves on to 186 winners for the season but played down his chance of reaching 200. "It's not on my mind. I would

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first of his five first-class games last summer, possesses more natural ability. "I have to work at my game," Adam has said. "It all comes naturally to Ben."

But while both have learned their crickering basics over here, that hard-nosed, hard-headed, hard-eyed, typically Southern hemisphere approach which has helped establish them in the Surrey senior set-up has been further enhanced in one of the best finishing schools in the game: winners spent playing grade cricket in Australia.

Yesterday the brothers were at Bexley Cricket Club in Kent to take part in a charity six-a-side tournament, organised in memory of the Surrey wicket-keeper Graham Kersey, who died during the winter. The Hollibaaks were particularly fond of Kersey and joined the rest of the Surrey squad to help raise money for cricket for the blind. After the glory of Lord's they were back where they belong. Among English cricket's grass roots.

ditional sponsorship money his name and stature would doubtless attract. Pollock has personal business relations with Prost.

Still on the back-burner is the prospect of a new team built around the 26-year-old, which may or may not eventually come to the boil.

If Williams again find themselves with a vacancy, there would be no shortage of applications for the job. Keke Rosberg, another of their former champions, is said to be eager to move his driver, Mika Hakkinen, out of McLaren and, even F1 propensity for irony, Hill cannot be written out of the equation.

Mansell returned to the team to win his title and, as Williams will know, Hill has better credentials than most. After his anguish at Arrows-Yamaha, he may welcome the opportunity to make up with his former boss. The Englishman is said to have sacked himself from Williams pit-wall crew on Sunday. Perhaps it was an omen.

While Arrows' owner, Tony Walkinshaw, has summoned "crisis" meetings with Yamaha in an endeavour to improve performance and reliability, the signs for Villeneuve in the championship are again pointing to prosperity. He will be the favourite to win the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal and come back to Europe with firmer hold on the title.

This is traditionally a crucial sector of the season for Williams, and their other driver, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, will hope that indicates a change of fortune for him. Apart from maiden victory at Imola, the campaign has brought him only frustration.

He still has a chance to figure in the championship contest, especially as the season was further extended to include races to accommodate the reinstatement of Purtyell. Whether Schumacher can maintain his challenge depends on the effectiveness of the long-awaited developments on the Ferrari. Even he could not stem the car to the podium here.

All fired up: The start of the the Top Alcohol class at the FIA European Professional Drag Racing Championships at Santa Pod Raceway, Bedfordshire, yesterday. The cars cover the quarter-mile strip in just over six seconds

Photograph: Peter J...

saw the checkered flag hung out for too late, causing consternation among those down the field. Meoju held on to win.

His second victory was a lot easier, thanks to a first-corner tangle which led to the elimination of Honda's Gabriele Tarquini. The Spaniard went side-by-side into the first turn with Meoju just as John Bintliffe, with a sensational start, put his Audi up there as well.

Three into one did not work and Tarquini spun across the podium, sending the field into avoidance. Several cars were layed but the incident allowed Meoju to make good his escape, scoring his seventh win of the season and ending his championship lead.

Disappointing

tol flanker Martin Cotty start after substitute appearances against Buenos Aires.

ENGLAND (w/ Argentine A, Buenos Aires, today): Mapieloff (Gloucester); Rees (Sale), Bezendoff (Sale), Allan (Northampton), O'Leary (Huddersfield); King (Walsley), Gomerall (Worps); Yates (Barn), Cockroft (Leicester), Earlhart (Lincoln), Haag (Bath), Cresswell (Coventry), Cotty (Bristol), Diprose (Scarsons, capt), Jenkins (Huddersfield), R. Phillips (Middlesbrough), Hardwick (Coventry), Greenleaf (Gloucester).

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Hoddle to make most of the promise of youth

Football
GLENN MOORE

The England squad met up at Bisham Abbey last night after a weekend with their families and began preparing for Saturday's World Cup tie in Poland.

Although Jamie Redknapp was missing, Paul Gascoigne limping and Tony Adams and Darren Eadie also carrying knocks, Glenn Hoddle's mood was positive as he surveyed the many youthful faces around him.

In the aftermath of Saturday's 2-1 win over South Africa, Hoddle yesterday admitted that it was the promise of youth which

persuaded him to accept the post of England coach.

Hoddle may have brought back Ian Wright and Martin Keown, but the general trend of his reign is to back young players. On Saturday, Paul Scholes became Hoddle's fifth debutant following David Beckham, Andy Hinchecliffe, David James and Nicky Butt. Only Hinchecliffe does not come into the category of young buck, and he was called up through injuries to do a specific job and played well enough to retain his place until being injured himself.

There would have been more young players but Terry Venables had already capped Sol

Campbell, Robbie Fowler, Phil and Gary Neville, Nick Barnby and Redknapp, all of whom are 23 or under.

"I did look at what was coming through," Hoddle said, "and I felt there was not just a number of emerging players but an underbelly as well. In the under-21s and further down there is some good talent."

"It is a matter of getting them acquainted with international football, which is why matches like South Africa are so important, they are part of building the future."

Saturday's match underlined the contribution Manchester United can make, with Phil

Neville, Butt, Beckham and Scholes all playing. "There is a bright future for these United players," Hoddle added. "They all have talent and when they are 24 or 25 years old they will have heads of 29, 30-year-olds because of the experience they are getting in the Champions' League and in international football."

"This is something we have lacked. When Liverpool had their super, super side, they were all men who were mature players - and not many of them were English. Scholes did very well. He showed a lot of maturity. There was a lovely ball into Wright and a lovely flick for the goal. He has got a bright future."

"He looked like he'd been there all his life, he looked very comfortable," Phil Neville said of Scholes. He added that he was not surprised Scholes had said he was not nervous because: "Everything we do at United prepares you for this. It is done in steps, from youth team to reserve team to first team to internationals."

"Things that Nobby Stiles told me at 11 were not just to prepare me for then, but for now too. They don't say at the time: 'You'll make it'. They look back and say they always thought we might. The message then was that we had to work hard and we might make it. Brian Kidd

used to say we had to improve a little bit every year - if we did we might make it."

Hoddle also seems bereft of nerves and he added: "The pressure of the job is perceived more by people outside. I was probably guilty of that as a club manager. I wondered who would actually want that sort of pressure."

"But when you actually do it yourself you don't look at it that way. You have to cocoon yourself away, not get distracted and not let anything distract you from your beliefs."

Looking ahead to next week, he said: "If Poland are to have any chance of qualifying second

they have to win and I think that favours us. They like to keep it tight with man-for-man marking, but they will have to open it up at some stage."

Gascoigne is rated as having a 50-50 chance of playing. Adams, who has a knee problem, 40-60. England will train at Bisham today and tomorrow before flying from Luton on Thursday afternoon.

Following the loss of the striker Marek Citko with a snapped Achilles tendon, Poland have suffered a second injury setback after their defender Pawel Wojtala underwent a cartilage operation last week. He will miss Saturday's game.

Sullivan No 1 for new-look Scotland

DAVID MCKINNEY

Craig Brown will give the Scotland supporters a glimpse of the future at Rugby Park tonight by including several new faces for the friendly with Wales.

Neil Sullivan, the cockney goalkeeper from Wimbledon, will make his international debut after establishing his credentials at the end of last year through a Scottish grandparent.

He is seen by Brown as an intermediary between the established pair of Jim Leighton and Andy Goram, filling the gap between those experienced performers and the younger pretenders to the No 1 jersey.

"I have to concede to our goalkeeping coach Alan Hodgkinson in this matter and he's convinced Neil has what it takes to be a success at international level," Brown said. "He is a very capable goalkeeper in whom we have every confidence."

The coach also has confidence in a fledgling central defence. Brian McAllister, another Wimbledon player, is capable of looking after himself at the top level, while Brown is convinced a season playing for Derby County has given Christian Dailly the necessary steel to step up from a promising Under-21 career.

The final new face is that of David Weir, the Hearts defender whose performances this season have attracted the interest of Rangers among others.

However bold the changes might appear, Brown has had his hand forced with the absence of Colin Calderwood and Colin Hendry, both of whom are undergoing surgery, while Alan McLaren, the Rangers defender, is injured.

The new defence will face a testing time against a Welsh front pairing of John Hartson and Dean Saunders. It is a test Brown hopes will allow him to judge his new defensive set-up.

In an unusual step the team was named yesterday and consists of Sullivan, Weir, Boyd, Dailly, Brian McAllister, Tosh McKinlay, Gallacher, Gemmill, Jackson, Gary McAllister and Dods.

The Rangers pair of Gordon Durie and Ally McCollet are both doubtful for the matches against Malta and then Belarus after picking up injuries in training. But Brown has indicated he is happy to risk further injury by playing two friends before the crucial World Cup tie in Belarus on 8 June.

"That is the risk we have to take, because it is more important to have the players ready to play at international standard for the World Cup tie."

Rusedski going green after Norman conquest

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from Roland Garros

Greg Rusedski will be among the first of the international set to settle his feet on the grass courts of England following his elimination in the opening round of the French Open in Paris yesterday.

It is fifth time that the Canadian-born Briton has bidden adieu after the first round of a Grand Slam tournament in his seven major championships since advancing to the fourth round at Wimbledon on his debut under the Union Jack in 1995. But at least there is scope for optimism in the weeks ahead.

For one thing, the British No 2 showed admirable resilience in retrieving a two-set deficit before losing to Sweden's Magnus Norman 9-7 in the fifth set. For another thing, Rusedski said he did not feel even a twinge from his rehabilitating left wrist after more than three hours of clay-court tennis involving longer points than on the faster surfaces.

It was only a pity that Rusedski was unable to impose his will on Norman sooner, and that he failed to complete a remarkable comeback from 3-5 in the final set. The match started at 11.00am, but Rusedski did not make his presence felt until the afternoon. "I was too tentative in the beginning," he said.

Norman, who first betrayed signs of edginess after disputing a line call in the opening game of the third set, appeared to be ready to crumble after double-faulting on his first match point at 5-3, 40-30. He then lost successive rallies as Rusedski levelled at 5-5.

The Swede had steadied him-

self by the time Rusedski served at 7-8, a backhand over the baseline leaving the Briton facing two more match points. He saved the first with a serve and backhand volley, but could only play a defensive backhand volley wide when Norman drove the ball to secure victory, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 4-6, 9-7.

Rusedski returns to Looe today to practise on the lawns at Quoco's Club. He is considering entering next week's Surrey Grass Courts Championships at Surbiton before competing in the Stella Artois tournament at Queen's and completing his preparation for Wimbledon at the Nottingham Open.

Tim Henman, the only other Briton in the singles here, plays his opening round today against Olivier Delaite, of France. Rusedski has suggest-

ed that he and Henman form a doubles partnership. There are two snags at the moment. Henman's coach, David Felgate, wants him to forgo doubles for the time being in order to rest his right elbow, and Henman already has a partner, the Dutchman Jan Siemerink.

Pete Sampras, the world No 1, was expected to struggle in his opening match against Fabrice Santoro. The Frenchman had won their two previous meetings on clay, and Sampras arrived here with a thigh strain. It did not appear to hamper the American yesterday. He won 6-3, 7-5, 6-1.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the defending champion, also made a comfortable start, defeating Martin Damm of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-4, 6-1. But Spain lost Alberto Berasategui, the 12th seed and runner-up in

1994, who retired with cramp in his legs at 1-1 in the fifth set against Andrei Medvedev.

Thomas Muster, the 1995 champion, seemed to be on his way out against Germany's Marc Goellner, who led 4-2 in the final set. From this point the Austrian No 5 seed began to impose his will on the situation, and Goellner was unable to cope. Muster advanced, 4-6, 7-6, 6-2, 6-7, 6-4.

The 16-year-old Venus Williams was the focal point of the women's programme, making her entrance on Court No 1 in a shiny silver outfit, her hair a mass of white beads. The American won her first contest in a Grand Slam tournament, defeating Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan 6-2, 6-7, 6-3.

It was a minor epic, fought over two hours and 39 minutes. There were 17 breaks of serve, and Williams was 3-1 down in the third set. Characteristically, she did not bother to sit down during the changeovers until the match had been in progress for 50 minutes, by which time Sawamatsu was leading 3-0 in the second set.

The tall, athletic Williams worked her way out of trouble, which would have pleased her father/coach, Richard, who has remained in America. "He said he wasn't going to start a second career as a parent in the stands, his head going this way and that way, watching the ball," Venus explained.

She is travelling with her mother, and already has plans to make a visual impact at Wimbledon. "I had to get to the hair and I decided not to put the hair and red beads back with the white ones until the US Open," she said. "Aren't the Wimbledon colours green and purple? I'm contemplating green and purple."



Venus Williams makes an instant impact on the French Open yesterday. Photograph: Allsport

SPORTING DIGEST

Cipollini gets timing right

Cycling

Mario Cipollini equalled his personal record of four stage wins in the Giro d'Italia when he took the 10th stage by just centimetres from a fast-finishing Endrio Leoni and Fabio Baldato to complete an Italian top-three finish yesterday.

Pavel Tonkov finished in the following group of 140, with the Russian maintaining his overall lead of 41 seconds over Luc Leblanc of France.

"This victory had more value because I no longer have the assistance of Gian Matteo Fagnini and Mario Scirea," Cipollini said. Fagnini, eliminated for dangerous riding, and Scirea, who retired through injury, were key workers for the Italian in massed finishes.

"I hope to score No 5 at Cuneo on Friday, but I would like to win at Camaiore, because that is close to my home."

Cipollini said. Victory in tomorrow's circuit race at the Tyrrhenian resort would make Cipollini the 10th most successful stage winner in the Giro's 80 years.

Cipollini and other leading riders can afford to be geoculous, but in Sunday's stage their charitable efforts were checked by Giro organisers. The riders allowed Spain's Jose Vidal to win a spirit worth 10m lire (£3,700), doated by the sponsoring newspaper *La Gazzetta dello Sport*.

Officials were not impressed and annulled the result, donating the cash to an association of former professionals.

"It is a pity and I am sorry about it because we decided to help the smaller teams win something," Cipollini said. After yesterday's stage from Castrovillari, the 158 riders were flying north for today's official rest day at Camaiore.

Athletics

PREPOTENTIAL CLASSIC (RAF Grand Prix, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1,600m, 3,200m, 6,400m, 12,800m, 25,600m, 51,200m, 102,400m, 204,800m, 409,600m, 819,200m, 1,638,400m, 3,276,800m, 6,553,600m, 13,107,200m, 26,214,400m, 52,428,800m, 104,857,600m, 209,715,200m, 419,430,400m, 838,860,800m, 1,677,721,600m, 3,355,443,200m, 6,710,886,400m, 13,421,772,800m, 26,843,545,600m, 53,687,091,200m, 107,374,182,400m, 214,748,364,800m, 429,496,729,600m, 858,993,459,200m, 1,717,986,918,400m, 3,435,973,836,800m, 6,871,947,673,600m, 13,743,895,347,200m, 27,487,790,694,400m, 54,975,581,388,800m, 109,951,162,777,600m, 219,902,325,555,200m, 439,804,651,110,400m, 879,609,302,220,800m, 1,759,218,604,441,600m, 3,518,437,208,883,200m, 7,036,874,417,766,400m, 14,073,748,835,532,800m, 28,147,497,671,065,600m, 56,294,995,342,131,200m, 112,589,990,684,262,400m, 225,179,981,368,524,800m, 450,359,962,737,049,600m, 900,719,925,474,099,200m, 1,801,439,850,948,198,400m, 3,602,879,701,896,396,800m, 7,205,759,403,792,793,600m, 14,411,518,807,585,587,200m, 28,823,037,615,171,174,400m, 57,646,075,230,342,348,800m, 115,292,150,460,684,697,600m, 230,584,300,921,369,395,200m, 461,168,601,842,738,790,400m, 922,337,203,685,477,580,800m, 1,844,674,407,370,955,161,600m, 3,689,348,814,741,910,323,200m, 7,378,697,629,483,820,646,400m, 14,757,395,258,967,641,281,200m, 29,514,790,517,935,282,562,400m, 59,029,581,035,870,565,124,800m, 118,059,162,071,741,131,139,200m, 236,118,324,143,482,262,278,400m, 472,236,648,286,964,544,556,800m, 944,473,296,573,929,089,113,600m, 1,888,946,593,147,858,178,227,200m, 3,777,893,186,295,716,716,454,454,400m, 7,555,786,372,591,433,432,908,908,800m, 15,111,572,745,182,866,877,817,817,600m, 30,223,145,490,365,733,755,635,635,200m, 60,446,290,980,731,467,507,511,271,200m, 120,892,581,961,463,014,922,022,400m, 241,785,163,922,926,028,844,844,800m, 483,570,327,845,852,057,689,689,600m, 967,140,655,691,705,715,419,379,379,200m, 1,934,281,311,383,411,431,838,758,758,400m, 3,868,562,622,766,822,877,677,677,600m, 7,737,125,245,533,755,755,755,755,200m, 15,474,250,491,067,511,511,511,511,200m, 30,948,500,983,133,022,022,022,022,400m, 61,897,001,966,266,044,044,044,044,800m, 123,794,003,932,532,088,088,088,088,600m, 247,588,007,865,064,176,176,176,176,200m, 495,176,015,730,352,352,352,352,400m, 990,352,031,460,704,704,704,704,800m, 1,980,704,062,920,140,140,140,140,600m, 3,961,408,125,840,280,280,280,280,200m, 7,922,816,251,680,560,560,560,560,400m, 15,845,632,503,360,112,112,112,112,800m, 31,691,265,006,720,224,224,224,224,600m, 63,382,530,013,440,448,448,448,448,200m, 126,765,060,026,880,896,896,896,896,400m, 253,530,120,173,760,179,179,179,179,200m, 507,060,240,347,520,358,358,358,358,400m, 1,014,120,480,695,040,716,716,716,716,600m, 2,028,240,960,139,080,143,143,143,143,200m, 4,056,481,920,278,160,286,286,286,286,400m, 8,112,963,840,556,320,572,572,572,572,600m, 16,225,927,680,111,240,114,114,114,114,200m, 32,451,855,360,222,480,228,228,228,228,400m, 64,903,710,724,444,960,232,232,232,232,600m, 129,807,421,448,889,464,464,464,464,200m, 259,614,842,896,928,928,928,928,400m, 519,229,685,792,185,856,187,187,187,187,600m, 1,038,459,371,584,371,771,771,771,771,200m, 2,076,918,743,168,743,343,343,343,343,400m, 4,153,837,486,336,743,743,743,743,600m, 8,307,674,972,672,743,743,743,743,800m, 16,615,349,944,134,743,743,743,743,200m, 33,230,699,888,268,743,743,743,743,400m, 66,461,399,776,536,743,743,743,743,600m, 132,922,799,552,1072,743,743,743,743,800m, 265,845,599,1104,1072,743,743,743,743,200m, 531,691,180,2208,1072,743,743,743,743,400m, 1,063,382,360,4416,1072,743,743,743,743,600m, 2,126,764,720,8832,1072,743,743,743,743,800m, 4,253,529,446,17664,1072,743,743,743,743,200m, 8,507,058,912,35328,1072,743,743,743,743,400m, 17,014,117,824,70656,1072,743,743,743,743,600m, 34,028,235,648,141,312,743,743,743,743,800m, 68,056,471,296,282,624,743,743,743,743,200m, 136,112,942,583,565,248,743,743,743,743,400m, 272,225,885,167,113,496,743,743,743,743,600m, 544,451,770,324,992,743,743,743,743,800m, 1,088,903,540,648,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 2,177,807,080,1296,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 4,355,614,160,2592,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 8,711,228,320,5184,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 17,422,456,103,680,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 34,844,912,207,360,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 69,689,824,414,720,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 139,379,648,828,144,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 278,759,296,165,680,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 557,518,592,331,360,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 1,115,037,184,662,720,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 2,230,074,368,1324,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 4,460,148,736,2648,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 8,920,297,472,5296,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 17,840,594,944,10592,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 35,681,188,888,21184,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 71,362,377,776,42368,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 142,724,755,547,367,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 285,449,511,094,735,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 570,899,022,188,1471,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 1,141,798,044,376,2942,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 2,283,596,088,752,5884,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 4,567,192,176,15168,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 9,134,384,352,30336,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 18,268,768,704,60672,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 36,537,536,141,341,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 73,075,072,282,683,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 146,150,144,565,366,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 292,300,288,1130,732,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 584,600,576,2260,732,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 1,169,201,152,4520,732,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 2,338,402,304,9040,732,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 4,676,804,608,18080,732,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 9,353,608,121,616,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 18,707,216,243,232,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 37,414,432,486,464,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 74,828,864,972,928,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 149,657,728,1955,856,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 299,315,456,3911,712,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 598,630,912,7822,712,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 1,197,261,824,15644,712,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 2,394,523,648,31288,712,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 4,789,047,296,62576,712,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 9,578,094,592,125152,712,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 19,156,188,110,250304,712,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 38,312,376,220,600608,712,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 76,624,752,441,201216,712,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 153,249,504,882,402432,712,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 306,499,008,1764,804,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 612,998,016,3528,804,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 1,225,996,032,7056,804,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 2,451,992,064,14112,804,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 4,903,984,128,28224,804,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 9,807,968,256,56448,804,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 19,615,936,512,112896,804,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 39,231,872,1025,920,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 78,463,744,2051,840,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 156,927,488,4103,680,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 313,854,976,8206,680,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 627,709,952,16412,680,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 1,255,419,904,32824,680,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 2,510,839,808,65648,680,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 5,021,679,616,131296,680,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 10,043,359,232,262592,680,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 20,086,718,464,525184,680,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 40,173,436,928,1050368,680,984,743,743,743,743,400m, 80,346,873,856,2100736,680,984,743,743,743,743,600m, 160,693,747,712,4201472,680,984,743,743,743,743,800m, 321,387,495,424,8402944,680,984,743,743,743,743,200m, 642,774,990,848,168

